

PNA ignores ruling to free students

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Ten university students jailed without charge since March remained in prison Monday, despite a ruling by the Palestinian supreme court ordering their immediate release. "The judiciary system is not respected by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The situation is very dangerous," human rights lawyer Khader Shikrat told the Associated Press. A five-judge panel of the court ruled unanimously Sunday that the detention of the students was illegal and ordered their release. But Mr. Shikrat said Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Al Kidreh told him Monday that he needed time to consider the decision. Mr. Kidreh could not immediately be reached for comment. Criticism of the PNA's human rights record has been growing steadily in recent weeks, both at home and abroad. Mr. Shikrat urged the international community to intervene and pressure Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to respect the court's decision.

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King: No intention or even thought to change government Normal life slowly returns to Karak

All moves are aimed at the key goal of self-reliance for Jordanians — HM

From Ayman Al Safadi in Karak

KARAK REMAINED calm for the second day Monday under a light curfew enforced by army units which patrolled the streets and kept a heavy presence in the city centre where riots against increases in the price of bread flared Friday and Saturday.

Security forces continued to arrest people suspected of inciting the riots or taking part in vandalism. The government has pledged to uphold law and order and punish those responsible for the disturbances.

The government put the number of those arrested at about 150, most of them Iraq sympathisers. Officials said 80 people were detained in Karak, 60 in the neighbouring towns of Ma'an, Tafleh and Mazar, five in Salt and three in Irbid.

Police arrested three people late Monday as they dispersed a 300-strong protest against the government's decision to hike bread prices just outside Amman, demonstrators said.

"We demonstrated against the government and for the freedom of those detained" in the course of Friday and Saturday's riots, said one of the organisers of the protest at Marj Hamam, about 10 kilometres outside Amman.

"Around 50 police were deployed but there was no violence as the MP for the region intervened and told us to disperse. However, police detained three of us," the demonstrator was quoted as saying by Agence France Presse.



Army soldiers patrol the streets of Karak and residents go about their business as normal life slowly returned to the town on Monday (photo by Yusef Alfian)

The deputy involved, Abdo Mussa Nahar, confirmed the protest. He said he stayed at the scene to calm the situation and obtained a promise from the authorities for the release of the three detained.

The curfew in Karak, which was imposed Sunday, was lifted between for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon to allow people to obtain necessities. Telephone links to the capital and other cities, which were cut off Sunday noon, were restored at noon but disconnected again four hours later.

Minister of Telecommunications Jamal Saraiher was quoted as saying by the Al Aswaq daily on Monday that overuse of the telephone links led to the disconnection as the capacity of the telephone exchange could not keep up with the demand.

The curfew was not strictly enforced and limited numbers of people could be seen moving through the city or sitting on street pavements throughout the day. Most shops, however, remained closed.

City dignitaries met at the house of former army commander Field Marshal Habes Al Majali Monday evening and condemned the rampage, which they described as "an individual act carried out by ignorant individuals and which was planned by outside the dear homeland."

In a cable they sent to His Majesty King Hussein at the end of the meeting, those dignitaries expressed "love, loyalty and dedication" to the King.

"The regrettable events that took place in Karak are unprecedented in the history of Karak and they do not represent the manners of our people," the cable said.

The signatories praised the wisdom of King Hussein in handling the Karak riots and pledged continued loyalty to him.

King Hussein telephoned Field Marshal Majali during the meeting to convey "his love to the people of Karak" and urged "everybody to stand together in the face of sedition attempts which aim at undermining this country and its stability."

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti: New subsidy programme will continue

'There are certain pockets of poverty...and some suffering...and it is the government's business to take care of those pockets'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, rejecting opposition calls for his resignation, said order had been restored in Karak and other southern towns where unrest flared since Friday. "Right now everything is back to normal and we hope that starting from today everybody will have to go about his business as usual," Mr. Kabariti told reporters after visits to the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice.

"No, I am not going to resign. I am very happy with my government's performance," he added.

Mr. Kabariti, reiterating

comments by His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday, pointed a finger at Baghdad for stirring discontent. "The Iraqi Baath Party was somehow very much involved in fomenting this riot that started in Karak," he said.

Asked whether poverty had contributed to the unrest, Mr. Kabariti said: "People are definitely very much worried about their well-being. There are certain pockets of poverty. There is some kind of suffering and it is our business in the government to take care of those pockets."

As far as those who were involved in the riots, "the

government will carry on with its investigations and will prosecute all those involved in harming the country's security or in carrying out sabotage against private and public institutions," Mr. Kabariti said.

Asked whether any member of Parliament was arrested in connection with the riots, the prime minister said: "No deputy is among those arrested for questioning about the recent events."

In reply to another question, he said: "Our programme on the subsidy question is going ahead unhindered. Our contacts with the concerned institu-

tions providing the cash subsidy to Jordanian citizens have found that everything is going ahead as planned with no problem whatsoever."

"The programme will continue because it is part of an overall plan to encourage people to go back to farming, to conduct economic reform and to fight corruption."

"My government's mottoes are candid and clear and it is determined to carry out its objectives in deed rather than word," added the prime minister.

Mr. Kabariti had called at the courts to congratulate Judge Najji Tarawneh who

was appointed as head of the Court of Cassation and Judge Omar Abazah as head of the Higher Court of Justice.

During the visit, Mr. Kabariti stressed the government's keenness on ensuring the independence of the judicial authority and said that coordination between the judicial and executive authorities was an essential element for guaranteeing the judiciary's independence.

Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Al Dughmi accompanied the prime minister on the visits.

Professional associations explain their position

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eleven professional associations have dissociated themselves from a statement issued by opposition parties demanding the resignation of the government following the outbreak of riots in southern Jordan.

Heads and senior officials from the associations met at the Professional Associations Complex Sunday night to discuss the statement that carried their names as signatories.

Seif Al Sharif, president of the Jordan Press Association, who attended the meeting, said: "Everyone

said they were surprised to find their names as signatories whereas none of them were consulted or informed about the statement."

Mr. Sharif said that while the concerned political parties were entitled to their own positions and demands, "they should have consulted us before putting our names as signatories."

The 11 associations issued a brief statement after the meeting that they had conveyed their positions on the issue of increase in the price of bread and fodder to the

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti and Ammarin reconcile

By Salameh Ne'matt and Yasser Abu Hilaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A reconciliation has been sealed between Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin who heard some "harsh words" regarding the parliamentarian's role in the outbreak of disturbances in Karak last Friday.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that at a meeting held Saturday at the Prime Ministry, arranged by the speaker of Lower House, Sa'd Hayel Srou, the prime minister and Dr. Ammarin exchanged views on what happened in Karak and they agreed to leave that particular incident behind.

Agreement also emerged from the meeting that all parties, especially the government and Parliament, should work together to get over the sad events in Karak and other southern towns this week.

Deputy Ammarin had taken a strong stand in opposition to the government's decision to lift subsidies on wheat and fod-

der prices, joining in the process a group of 22 other deputies who even boycotted Parliament session in protesting the step.

Dr. Ammarin subsequently became a symbol for the rioters in Karak and as such he was asked by them to negotiate with the government on their behalf.

The prime minister was so irked by Dr. Ammarin's acceptance of the offer, "since as a representative of the people he should not have even talked to those who vandalised public property, looted and burned cars and banks" that he used harsh language with him when they talked over the phone at the height of the crisis on Friday. News of the clash further fuelled the unrest in Karak, and led eventually to a "temporary exile" for the deputy in Amman, as one source put it.

The reconciliation is a clear sign that the crisis in Karak is heading towards resolution, another source said, especially that the prime minister and the deputy could now see eye-to-eye on what actually caused the riots.

U.S. pleased calm restored in Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Monday it was pleased that calm had returned to Jordan following riots but was unable to confirm charges that Iraqi sympathisers had fomented the violence. "We've seen the claim that (Jordan) made," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said. "But I don't have any independent information that would indicate that Iraq was or wasn't involved in those riots," he added. Mr. Davies stressed that Jordanian officials had pledged to respect the rights of the detainees and grant them due process. "We're pleased that the situation was restored to one of calm without any loss of life," he said. In Amman, officials said 14 members of the Arab Socialist Baath Party, which is close to the ruling party in Iraq, were detained as were 13 members of Hashd, a leftist party close to Damascus-based radical Palestinian group the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

By Saad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday he had no intention to replace the government following two days of riots in the south and any move to open discussions on how to help the people could come only after the situation has returned to complete normality.

In an interview with the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), the King affirmed that peace and security had been restored to all parts of the Kingdom and that investigations would reveal the perpetrators or those who were involved in the riots.

The King also said some of the people behind the events had some links with Iraq but any final judgement in this respect would have to wait until the investigations are over.

Asked whether he was planning any change in government, the King said: "I intend to do no such thing or even think about it. I can by no means give a reward for or make a compromise over acts of ingratitude or attempts to harm the country and its reputation in the world and sabotage against public property."

"First we want to see the situation returning to normal, and then we will try to help improve the image and offer what we can to help people achieve their aspirations within the framework of democracy and respect for human rights, respect for parliamentary life and respect for a government dedicated to serving the public."

Following are major excerpts of the King's interview: QUESTION: Could Your Majesty give us an assessment of the present situation following the latest incidents?

ANSWER: The situation is back to normal and no incidents were reported today. Thank God there were no casualties as a result of the disturbances and we are working to find out those behind the riots and those who were involved in the incidents.

Perhaps these incidents are related to the events of 1989 when I was abroad. After those incidents certain groups claimed they were behind the change towards democracy and parliamentary life and the other achievements of the past years. But the decision had been already taken before the 1989 events towards severing ties with the West Bank and the matters were going smoothly towards parliamentary life.

It is to be regretted that certain elements who have no affiliation to this country and who perhaps are loyal to other countries and their ideologies might have been behind the riots. These elements must have thought that the opportunity has presented itself to them to create anarchy, but thank God, their attempts have been foiled.

Q: Was the Baath Party of Iraq behind the events?

A: Many of the elements in question have some kind of links with Iraq either because they have studied there or through other means. But the investigations will reveal the truth about the whole matter.

Q: What is your comment on the destruction of property as an expression of protest something which has been rejected and condemned by the majority?

A: The Jordanian people are seeking an end to administrative corruption and we are taking steps to achieve that and to help the country to stand on its feet and end its reliance on foreign sources. The measures taken by the government lately are not merely designed to lift the sub-

dies on the bread but rather to help the Jordanian citizens meet their needs and be in a position to deal with any situation.

However, had these measures been taken in the past years, our situation now would have been much better.

But the present situation should prompt us to give more attention to farming to produce more food. I consider myself the most keen person on safeguarding Jordanian people's interests and on securing their rights. I hope the Jordanians will face no shortages. However, I had in mind the idea of making allocations for wage increases. But I simply cannot take decisions in this regard under this atmosphere. First we want the situation to return to normal one hundred per cent before opening the door for any discussion or open dialogue.

Q: Did you make any contacts with Arab leaders including Prince Abdullah, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia?

A: Prince Abdullah was among the first group of leaders who contacted me to enquire about the situation. He reaffirmed his country's support for us. Later the presidents of Yemen and Palestine, the crown prince of Bahrain, and others called. But most of the cables came from Jordan... from representatives of various sectors, mayors, parliamentarians and others all denouncing the riots and expressing support and allegiance. Support came particularly from the people of Karak, Ma'an and Tafleh condemning the violent protests and the acts of sabotage.

Q: How was your recent meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia?

A: It was a great meeting.

(Continued on page 7)

At least 40 leftist activists among 150 rounded up after riots in south

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 40 members of leftist political groups are among the nearly 150 people detained following two days of riots in southern Jordan, party and official sources said Monday.

According to a statement issued by the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), 12 of its members were detained. The statement provided the names of those detained, who included two members of the party's politburo, five members of its central committee and five activists.

Party sources said another member was also arrested, making a total of 13 JPDP activists, hailing from Amman, Madaba, Irbid, Ramtha, Ajloun and Balqa Governorate, in detention.

The JPDP is believed close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a Damascus-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The DFLP is a vehement opponent of the autonomy accord signed between Israel and the PLO. Security sources confirmed the arrest of "up to 150 people" in connection with the riots, but would not reveal their identity.

One source, said, however, that "most of those detained were directly involved in the riots and damaging public and private property."

Officials quoted by Agence France Presse said nine members of the Jordanian Communist Party were also arrested.

Independent sources said "more than a dozen" activists of the pro-Iraq Arab Socialist Baath Party were also under detention. Khalil Haddadin, the only member of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in the Lower House of Parliament, denied that his group was involved in the riots.

"My party was not involved in the disturbances," said Mr. Haddadin. It is "possible that some members of the party took part in the demonstrations but they would have done so in their individual capacity as residents of the areas" where the riots took place, he said.

"Nor do I believe any other political party was behind the protests, which were a spontaneous manifestation of people's anger over the increase in the price of bread and fodder and the chain reaction of such increases on the prices of other basic commodities."

Prime Minister Abdul

Karim Kabariti told reporters on Monday that the "Iraqi Baath Party was somehow very much involved in fomenting this riot that started in Karak."

The Arab Socialist Baath Party of Jordan is believed to be close to the ruling party in Iraq.

According to an official quoted by Reuters, "it is too early to say if Iraq had a direct role in planning the riots, but it is no secret that (Iraqi) President Saddam Hussein would like to undermine Jordan's stability and that Iraq has many supporters in Jordan awaiting for the right moment to move." Political relations between Jordan and Iraq took a plunge after Jordan gave shelter to President Saddam's two sons-in-law, who defected here along with their wives, both daughters of the Iraqi leader, in August last year, and the Kingdom criticised the policies of the Baghdad government.

The Islamic Action Front party said meanwhile that the Ministry of Interior turned down an application the party had filed for permission for a demonstration in Amman on Friday. The party sent a copy of its request as well as the ministry's reply to the Jordan Times.

Militants slaughter 13 Algerians, reports say

CAIRO (Agencies) — Armed militants have slit the throats of 63 people including women, the elderly and children, in the worst attack on civilians since political violence erupted in Algeria in 1992, the Arabic daily Al Hayat said Monday.

The attack took place on Saturday southeast of Algiers on a road between Mésila and Bameh, the birthplace of President Liamine Zeroual.

Some 100 militants armed with hunting rifles, daggers and axes, set up a false roadblock and stopped two buses packed with civilians, the newspaper said, quoting passengers.

They checked identity cards before "cutting the throats of all the passengers from Bameh, including women, the elderly and children," the London-based Al Hayat said.

Algerian security services could not confirm the killings on Monday, but a resident in Bameh told AFP in Algiers by telephone that "there had been a massacre."

However, residents could not give further details.

The mountainous region, where several underground groups are based, voted overwhelmingly in favour of Mr. Zeroual in the presidential polls in November.

Al Hayat quoted Algerian sources as saying that the aim of the massacre was to target inhabitants from a specific region to provoke unrest between various tribes.

Civilians have been targeted in several attacks along Algeria's roads in the past months, but if confirmed Saturday's killings would be the worst since violence erupted in the country in January 1992 after the cancellation of elections which the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

PUK accuses Barzani of cooperating with Saddam

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish group on Monday accused a rival militia of cooperating with the forces of President Saddam Hussein in an outbreak of fighting among Kurds in northern Iraq.

"Credible reports indicate growing coordination and collaboration between the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) and the Iraqi regime," the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a statement faxed from its Ankara office.

The PUK said Iraqi government forces, including armoured units, had taken up positions against its fighters at several points on the edge of the Kurdish-controlled region.

Clashes between the Kur-

ish groups broke out at the weekend in the most serious fighting since a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire last year.

The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, was not immediately available for comment. Jalal Talabani's PUK said it had repulsed a KDP offensive against it near the northeastern town of Rawanduz.

Iraq's Kurds, shielded from possible Iraqi attack by Western air power, broke away from Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf war. Fighting between them began in 1994 and cost around 3,000 lives until last year's ceasefire.

The PUK did not say how many people had died in the recent fighting.



SECURITY PRESENCE: Jordanian soldiers on Monday man a checkpoint in the main street of the southern town of Karak, which was rocked by two days of riots. The town was quite on Monday (see page one) (Reuters photo)

Russians recount dramatic escape from Afghanistan

MOSCOW (AFP) — Seven Russian aircraft who escaped dramatically from Afghanistan after being held hostage for a year by militants have told how they flew to freedom in their own plane, Interfax news agency reported Monday.

In a news conference after returning here in triumph late Sunday, they said they tricked their guards into letting them not only board the plane, but also start the engine and take off.

It was only then that they overpowered the three Taliban militia men with them before flying in the Ilyushin-76 airplane to the United Arab Emirates.

But they failed to explain why the Taliban had let all seven of them board the plane and take off without any further precautions.

They also could not explain why they knew nothing of the trafficking. Mr. Sharpatov, cited by Inter-

fax, said they were let on board the plane to carry out a series of checks, which they managed to prolong until most of the Taliban militia had gone away.

As on previous checks, they started the engine to check it was working, but this time also persuaded their guards to let them take off on a test flight.

A few minutes later they disarmed the guards and flew with them to Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

They were met by a top-level Russian delegation and flown on to Moscow. They are due to be received and decorated at the Kremlin by President Boris Yeltsin in the next few days.

Earlier, in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, embarrassed Taliban officials said their leaders had ordered an investigation to determine whether the crew had betrayed their guards or whether it was a

case of negligence.

Most of the Taliban were praying at the time of the escape, Taliban official Mulla Malang said. The "fiasco" revealed weaknesses in the Taliban organisation, he added.

The plane could not be intercepted and the anti-aircraft battery at Kandahar did not go into action "because of the Taliban's presence" in the plane, Mr. Malang said.

An informed Russian source said the three Taliban guards were still in the UAE.

The Taliban, who are fighting the Kabul regime from their stronghold in the south of Afghanistan, had previously insisted Moscow supply information on the fate of 60,000 Afghans who disappeared during the 1979-1989 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a demand the Russians had rejected as unrealistic.

Under a 1995 autonomy accord, Israel agreed to pull out from four-fifths of the town before the end of March, leaving behind a small force to guard Jewish settlers and holy sites.

But the former government postponed the redeployment after a string of militant suicide bombings in Israel, and Mr. Peres' rightwing successor

among 120,000 Palestinians. It is the last main West Bank town still under Israeli occupation and is the site of the Ibrahim Mosque, holy to Jews and Muslims alike.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli seriously wounded by PNA police

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli was seriously wounded Monday when a Palestinian policeman opened fire at a roadblock at the entry to the West Bank town of Tulkarem, an Israeli army spokesman said. "The victim, an Arab Israeli whose identity was not given, was taken to hospital where his wounds were considered serious," the spokesman said. The Israeli army filed an official complaint with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) over the incident. Tulkarem was banned to Israelis until further notice and an investigation was opened, the spokesman said.

Quake in Turkey, no victims

ISTANBUL (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale shook northwest Turkey on Monday but caused no casualties, the Kandilli Institute of Seismic Research in Istanbul reported. The medium-size tremor along the Aegean Sea hit at 4:05 a.m. (0105 GMT), the institute said. Its epicentre was in the Aegean Sea, northwest of the island of Lesbos and 165 kilometres from the seismic station in Izmir province in western Turkey. The quake was felt in the small towns of Ayvalik, Ayvacik, Edremit, Ezine and Burhaniye, all in the region of the Edremit Gulf, the institute said. It said first reports were that there were neither casualties nor damage. Last week, 35 people were injured in a series of quakes running from 3.4 to 5.6 on the Richter scale in the provinces of Ankara, Amasya, Cankiri, Tokat, Kastamonu and Sivas, in western Turkey, as well as in Samsun, on the Black Sea. About 100 people were killed in October 1995 when a quake hit Dinar, in central west Turkey.

Libya blasts Dole's campaign speeches

CAIRO (AP) — Libya lashed out at Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole for branding Libya a terrorist state during his campaign speeches, and said the remarks would not help him win the election this November. The statement came Sunday on Libya's state-run JANA news agency, which reflects government policies. It referred to Mr. Dole's urging the international community to isolate Libya, Iran and Iraq because of their alleged sponsorship of terrorist attacks. "We warn the Republican nominee to the American presidency not to implicate the name of (Libya) in his election propaganda and his ambitions to reach power in the U.S.A.," said JANA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). "We urge the American Republican nominee... to take a look at the daily suffering of the oppressed and helpless American citizens and to unemployment, inflation and other problems undermining American society," it added. JANA attributed the commentary to its political editor. The United States earlier this month upgraded sanctions against Libya and Iran, requiring penalties against foreign firms that invest \$40 million annually in either country's energy sector. Both countries are on the State Department list of alleged sponsors of terrorism.

Divorcee women in UAE growing rapidly

ABU DHABI (AP) — The number of divorced women in this thinly populated country has hit 5,000 and could soon be triple that number if current trends continue, the Gulf News daily reported Sunday. Authorities in the UAE keep a close watch on marriage and divorce figures because only 25 per cent of the population are citizens of the UAE, and a growing number of men have been divorcing their local wives to marry foreign women. The Gulf News, an English-language daily, said almost all of the 5,000 divorced women in the UAE were illiterate. It said that number of divorcees could rise to 16,000 in the near future if the rate was not curbed. The marriage fund, an official body set up by the government to encourage marriage between local men and women, is trying to find husbands for the divorced women, the paper reported. UAE leaders are considering the possibility of banning local men from marrying foreign women in a bid to force them to take local brides. Also, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan has urged young women not to demand high dowries and expensive weddings, another reason that some UAE men choose to marry foreign women. The government has even granted cash incentives for young UAE men to marry local women in a bid to increase the native population. Since 1992 the fund has given about 9,000 men a little over \$19,000 each to encourage them to marry UAE women.

Yemen receives U.S. aid to fight malaria

SANAA (AP) — Yemen has received \$25,000 from the United States in medical aid to help it fight a malaria epidemic that has killed scores. Yemeni newspapers reported Sunday. Nearly 60 people have died over the past month in an outbreak of malaria which followed heavy rains and flooding. Malaria is spread by mosquitoes that breed in pools of stagnant water such as those left behind by the recent heavy rain and floods in Yemen, a poor country on the Arabian Peninsula.

Settlers draw up battle plan against Hebron pullback

HEBRON (AFP) — Jewish settler leaders in Hebron said Monday they had drawn up a battle plan against the planned partial withdrawal of Israeli troops from the flashpoint West Bank town.

"We plan to demonstrate not against the government but against the accord signed by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres and (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat" which committed Israel to the redeployment, settlers' spokesman Noam Arnon said.

"We refuse to let the town of the patriarchs be divided. It

must remain under the control of the Israeli army so Jews and Arabs can develop side by side," Mr. Arnon told public radio after an emergency meeting of settler leaders.

Mr. Arnon said the settlers would launch a propaganda campaign against the redeployment under the theme "Hebron, it's good for Jews."

They will also occupy houses in Hebron's old town and stage demonstrations outside the homes of ministers who support an army pullback.

Some 450 militant settlers live in the heart of Hebron

among 120,000 Palestinians. It is the last main West Bank town still under Israeli occupation and is the site of the Ibrahim Mosque, holy to Jews and Muslims alike.

Under a 1995 autonomy accord, Israel agreed to pull out from four-fifths of the town before the end of March, leaving behind a small force to guard Jewish settlers and holy sites.

But the former government postponed the redeployment after a string of militant suicide bombings in Israel, and Mr. Peres' rightwing successor

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Iris — The Happy Professor
15:20 Captain Planet
15:40 Hot Shots (Sports)
16:00 Bob Morrison Show
16:30 Comedy — ALF
17:00 Sciences Cartoon
17:15 La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 Game Show — Pyramid
18:00 Varieties — Hommage a Michel Berger
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Blossom
20:00 Documentary
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:20 Human Target
23:15 Hawwii 5-0
23:59 My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
05:58 (Sunrise) Duha
12:39 Dhuhur
16:18 Asr
19:21 Maghreb
20:44 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with tempera-

tures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman19/30

Aqaba25/38

Deserts18/35

Jordan Valley26/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Kallil Tushiq757253

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim830432

Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi893542

Dr. Bahjat Bader832642

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Nairoukh pharmacy623672

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985019

Khalifah pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Dept661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192621111.

637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints897467

Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority815615

Electric Power Company636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53300

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity642816

Aldhah Maternity642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990590

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555

Greek Catholic Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:00Damascus (RJ)

09:00Damascus (RJ)

09:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:10Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

12:15Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

13:00Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

13:15Cairo (RJ)

14:05London (RJ)

14:55Madrid (RJ)

15:50Paris (RJ)

21:20Jeddah (RJ)

21:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

21:45Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)

22:20Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights

08:45Beirut (ME)

09:15London (BA)

13:40Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:00Riyadh (SV)

14:00Munich (YP)

16:00Rome (AZ)

16:30Dubai (EK)

19:35Amsterdam (KL)

20:20London (BA)

20:20Aden (IV)

21:10Beirut (ME)

22:00Tel Aviv (LY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

04:30Damascus (RJ)

06:35Beirut (RJ)

09:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:10Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

12:15Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

13:00Geneva, Brussels (RJ)</

Home News

Queen Noor meets with human rights groups, emphasises role of women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with President of United Way International (UWI) Leon Irish and Executive Director of the International Centre for Not-for Profit Law (ICNL) Karla Simon to discuss means of minimising legislative obstacles for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and how to better expand the support of the World Bank.

The Queen emphasised the need to expand the non-governmental sector's focus on women, avowing that women are an untapped resource and a driving force behind all development efforts.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation has introduced a new perspective to development in Jordan by progressing beyond traditional charity-oriented social welfare practices for women through integration of their training with national economic needs and priorities, the Queen explained.

ICNL currently works in conjunction with the World Bank in creating an improved legal structure for NGOs, a process known as "third sector legislation," in the developing world.

According to President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib their work will take the form of "evaluating Jordanian laws for NGOs as well as reviewing national non-governmental development projects."



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday meets with President of United Way International (UWI) Leon Irish and Executive Director of the International Centre for Not-for Profit Law (ICNL) Karla Simon (Petra photo)

UWI was incorporated in 1974 by United Way of America as a worldwide network of voluntary citizen-based community organisations that raise in excess of \$500 million annually to support tens of

thousands of voluntary community groups and agencies which endeavour to improve quality of life.

The ICNL is an international organisation whose mission is to facilitate and support the development of civil society on a global basis.

It conducts and supports legal, sociological and other relevant research to create, strengthen and

improve laws for non-governmental sectors worldwide.

ICNL has developed country projects and regional programmes in the Asia-Pacific, assisted legal study projects and reform efforts in Africa and Latin America, published NGO laws for Central Europe and is providing continual legal assistance for NGOs in Palestine.

Group calls for environmental awareness

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan continues to suffer from pollution to its environment, according to Director-General of the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) Saleh Shar'a Monday.

He convened an assembly, held at the Regency Palace Hotel, reporting that the pollution was directly linked to economic and building expansions as well as increased growth in industrial and agricultural sectors during the past two decades.

This apparent progress has not only adversely impacted the environment but also drained valuable material resources, notably water, according to Dr Shar'a, adding that industrial and agricultural waste are largely responsible for the present situation.

Referring to a national

strategy on the environment created last year, he stated an aspiration that the strategy would enable the country to contain the pollution while still capable of furthering development and perhaps stimulate public awareness concerning environmental protection in the process.

Noting that detrimental exploitation of natural assets will continue to drain the country and cause further contamination, Dr Shar'a stressed the need for early community awareness, beginning at home and at school, dealing with environmental preservation.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razak Tubeishat, who delegated the gathering, standing in for Her Majesty Queen Noor, informed the participants, many of

whom comprised environmental experts from various private and state-run organisations, that Jordan was attempting its utmost to safeguard natural resources and to prevent their abuse.

The government, which introduced a national strategy on the environment in 1995, will continue to combat atmospheric pollution as well as that of the soil and water, he added.

Jordan has signed 22 international accords concerning the protection of the Earth and its environment, Dr Tubeishat said, and it persists in paying particular attention to measures designed to safeguard the ozone layer, the application of strict regulations concerning industrial waste, and sound methods for waste disposal.

Computer equipment donated to Institute of Diplomacy

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an effort to promote cultural cooperation between Jordan and France in the training of Jordanian diplomats, French Cultural Attaché Agnes Romatet presented a gift of computer equipment on behalf of the French Embassy, to the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy in a ceremony at the institute in Amman, Monday, August 19, 1996.

The gift includes computer equipment, printers, software packages, CD ROMs, and a number of publications regarding international relations.

They will be used by the Institute of Diplomacy for training and research purposes.

Dr. Mazen Armouti, advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Ben Talal and president of the Institute of Diplomacy, expressed the institute's gratitude for the generosity and support of the French government and lauded efforts to enhance cultural co-operation between the two countries.

The institute is currently drafting, and in some cases concluding and finalising, cooperation and exchange protocols in the academic field with a number of French and European organisations, universities, centres, and research institutes, to learn from their vast experience in the training of diplomats and those working in the field of international relations and communications abroad, he said.

Ms. Agnes Romatet reiterated her country's support for the institute and expressed her desire that the cultural and diplomatic relationship between the two parties only amplify in the future.

Mr. Jean Noel Odier, assistant to the cultural attaché, and a number of faculty members, researchers and administrators of the Institute of Diplomacy attended the ceremony.

New budget demands aim at curtailing excess expenditures

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday issued a memo to various government and public institutions urging them to prepare their budgets for the coming year at least one month prior to the close of 1996.

He further admonished them to reflect the government's general policy of curtailing public expenditure in line with objectives contained in the 1993-1997 socio-economic development plan.

The plan, which was prepared in conjunction with a governmental economic restructuring programme, is

intended to boost socio-economic growth and advance towards a solution to poverty and unemployment, the memo stated.

It also urged government agencies to update methods for collecting state revenues and called on concerned authorities to deal firmly with tax evaders and others who fail to make proper payment on various assorted official transactions.

According to the memo, government institutions have permission to execute only those programmes considered to be of paramount importance such as

income generating projects which might employ a substantial number of people.

It further clarified that such agencies should refrain from requesting funds directed towards the construction of new roads with the exception of those in predominantly agricultural areas, and should equally restrain requests for government buildings (excluding health centres and schools) nor should they expect allocations for cars or furniture unless said items warrant replacement.

The memo further dictated that government offices refrain from creating new

job openings, should cancel existing vacancies, and abstain from soliciting additional allocations to cover overtime or transportation.

The memo admonished government institutions to closely examine their contributions to Arab, regional and international organisations and to weigh their value and benefit to the Kingdom.

Government organisations were exhorted to closely cooperate with the Jordanian Armed Forces enlisting their help in meeting the country's mandates.

Indonesian minister declares support; offers expertise to labour markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh Monday opened talks with visiting Indonesian Minister of Manpower Abdul Latif on promoting a coordinated Indonesian-Jordanian effort in the fields of vocational training, social security fund investments and labour management.

The talks were initiated during the Indonesian minister's three-day official visit to Jordan and suggested the possibility of Indonesian assistance in establishing a human resources information centre in Jordan as well as in promoting the Jordanian traditional handicrafts industry.

Mr. Abdul Latif maintained that Indonesia is

anticipating cooperation with Jordan in these fields and further bolstering its own economic and trade ties with the Kingdom.

Indonesia also hopes to measure prospects for joint economic ventures to be initiated by business communities in both countries, he said.

Dr. Shakhanbeh notified the assembly that Indonesia is a major importer of Jordanian phosphate and that the volume of trade between the two countries totals \$70 million annually.

He declared himself optimistic that the two countries will benefit from healthy cooperation in labour and human resources and that Jordan would learn from Indonesia's vast experience in

income generation as well as grappling with unemployment.

He affirmed that the presence of a great number of Indonesian students at Al al Bayt University is one reminder of the close ties which bind the two countries.

Mr. Abdul Latif extended an invitation to the Minister of Labour to visit Indonesia at the head of an economic, trade and labour delegation proposing to continue discussions regarding joint ventures and investment plans.

The two ministers decided to prepare a draft agreement on human resource cooperation to be ratified before the Indonesian minister's departure.

The Indonesian minister

will hold talks on other related issues during a three-day sojourn to the Kingdom, with both officials and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Abdul Latif, who arrived at the invitation of Dr. Shakhanbeh, explained that these meetings will cover ways in which the two countries can benefit from each other's experience, and added that Indonesia has much experience with modest entrepreneurial projects contracting local workers and he is most eager to disperse this information to his hosts.

He also avowed Indonesia's support of Jordan regarding Palestine and the Kingdom's quest to establish a comprehensive peace in the region.

Jordanian murdered; Saudi indicted

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman police are investigating a murder case, involving two Saudi nationals, one of whom is accused of having murdered 26-year old Jordanian Luay Eibaff and shot his friend in the legs Saturday in the district of Sweifeh, a police report said.

The suspect and his friend parked their car in a dark alley and were engaged in a conversation with two women also parked in the alley.

After the car had reportedly blocked the alley for nearly three hours the victim approached the Saudis' car requesting that they remove their car.

Upon their refusal to comply, Eibaff reportedly threatened police action.

The Saudi suspect then drew an automatic rifle and shot Eibaff in the chest

instantly killing him and wounding his companion.

In the ensuing confusion the Saudis' managed to evade arrest but were soon apprehended and currently remain in custody.

The two men were taken to the hospital.

A press report has stated that the injured man's surname is Shalan but this is unconfirmed by the police report which identifies him only by his first name, Raed.

Boy injured by father's gun

In another incident Sunday a young boy was accidentally shot while playing with his father's firearm.

A local press report stated that the two were on a hunting trip near Wadi Sier.

Vocational training conference to open next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) announced that a conference regarding development of vocational training will convene next month.

The conference is slated to convene next month in Amman with the participation of public and private institutions.

The three-day conference will tackle vocational training policies and programmes and how to best cater to the needs of the local and regional labour requirements as well as the Arab region's requirements for skilled labour, the announcement stated.

It claimed a goal of enlisting the private sector and non-governmental organisations in attracting investments in the vocational training fields.

By means of the conference, which will open on Sept. 29, the VTC hopes to gain the assistance of the media and community leaders to encourage Jordanian youth to register for vocational training courses which lead to employment needed in Arab labour markets.

According to the VTC statement diverse reports submitted at the conference will undertake such objectives as facilities needed for vocational training programmes, unemployment, population displacements, the local labour market's requirements of skilled manpower, the demographic distribution of the Jordanian workforce, quality of training, and modernising the current vocational training systems.

Expected to participate in the conference are vocational training specialists, institutions affiliated with the ministries of education, higher education, planning and labour, the Jordanian Armed Forces, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Civil Service Commission, the National Population Commission, the National Committee for Women, Jordanian universities and other concerned parties.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministers requested to submit reports

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday called on all ministers to present summaries of what their ministries and affiliated departments have thus far achieved that they may be included in King Hussein's Speech from the Throne in early November this year.

Minister of trade meets with ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb Monday received Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michel de Salaberry who is due to conclude his term of service in Amman. Mr. Abul Ragheb and Mr. Salaberry discussed economic relations between the two countries and reviewed the accomplishments of Mr. Salaberry in this field. Mr. Abul Ragheb also received Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom Abdul Hameed Kittani on the occasion of his assumption of duty in Jordan. The two reviewed ties particularly in the fields of trade and industry.

Employment fund allots JD 187,250 to provide jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Employment and Development Fund has relegated JD 187,250 to finance 32 projects aimed to boost income. These programmes will provide 76 job opportunities. Fund Director General Ali Jaddone stated that the industrial sector participated in the majority of these projects while the Irbid governorate partook in 37 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- Chinese film "Love By Coincidence" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
- Children's film "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory" at the British Council at 4:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- "A Summer Souvenir" exhibition by Jordan River Designs, Adil Centre, Shamsani (Tel. 813081/2), until Aug. 25.
- Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandak at Kan Zaman, until Aug. 21.
- Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 22.
- Abstract (plastic) art by Hana Barto entitled "Between Past and Present" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 20.
- Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'sh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 20.

BANI HAMIDA

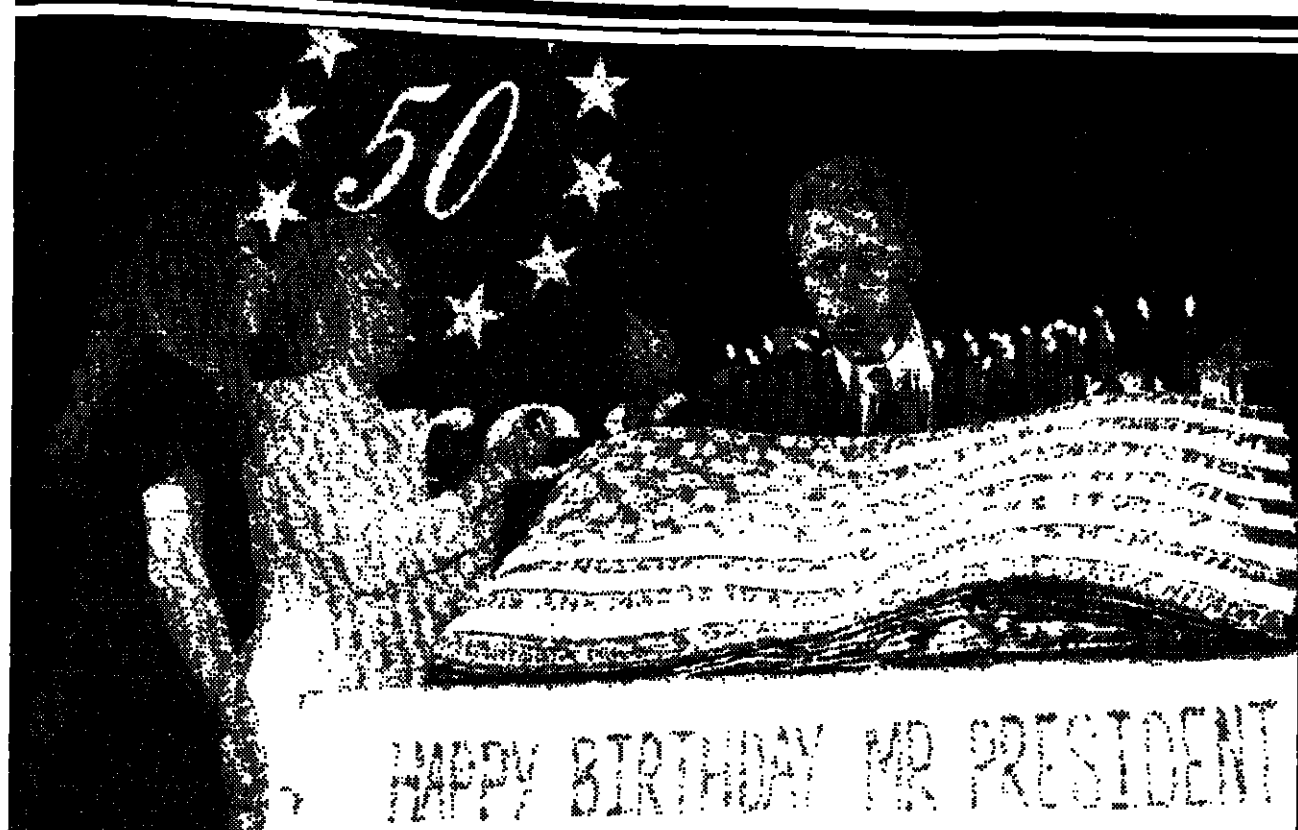
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President Bill Clinton blows out the candles on his 50th birthday cake as his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea look on at a reception in New York. The 300 pound cake features the names of all 50 States (Reuter photo)

White House race hits high gear

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The race to capture the White House has hit high gear as the Democratic and Republican contenders — joined by the feisty leader of a third party — rip into one another.

President Bill Clinton, who intentionally kept a low profile last week by going on a secluded vacation during the Republican National Convention, came out swinging Sunday night in New York City.

Mr. Clinton, surrounded by hundreds of party faithful celebrating a day ahead of his 50th birthday with a star-studded fundraising event, lashed into the Republicans.

"This is your birthday present," he told those gathered at the event which was part of a drive to bring some \$10 million into the Clinton war chest.

"You get a presidential election where you don't have to guess," he said, portraying the vote as a clear choice between his record of cutting the deficit, reducing crime and increasing jobs and the conservative agenda of the Republican Party which controls Congress.

Mr. Clinton blasted Republican challenger Bob Dole's 15 per cent tax cut proposal as irresponsible and pointed out that the Republicans have fought him on welfare reforms and the assault weapons ban.

Sen. Dole, invigorated by the San Diego, California, convention and the positive impact his surprise selection of one-time nemesis Jack Kemp has had on his bid, pressed on with a string of post-convention appearances.

According to the latest Newsweek magazine poll, Sen. Dole, 73, has closed the double-digit gap between himself and Mr. Clinton with 44 per cent of those surveyed saying they would vote for Mr. Clinton and 42 per cent for Sen. Dole.

The Republican duo visited Buffalo, New York —



Republican U.S. presidential nominee Bob Dole greets a Polish dance group at the Pulaski Day Parade in Buffalo. Sen. Dole and running mate Jack Kemp are on the campaign trail following last week's Republican Convention (Reuter photo)

where Mr. Kemp once was a professional football player and former congressman — and then headed on to a rally in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Although Republican budget-balancing plans call for restraining the growth of future Medicare spending for the elderly, the nominee said flatly that he would eliminate the deficit "without touching" the program.

"I want to make one thing clear because the scare-mongers are working overtime," Sen. Dole told a group gathered in Pittsburgh, referring to White House criticism that his tax-cut plan would inflate the deficit.

"We are going to balance the budget and cut your taxes without touching social security or Medicare," Sen. Dole also soaked up the joys of having his once cash-strapped campaign coffers rejuvenated by the infusion of \$62 million in federal funds for the fall election.

At the rallies, there were elaborate decorations, daytime fireworks and balloon launches.

Meanwhile, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Texas billionaire Ross Perot launched the Reform Party's presidential campaign, vowing to restore the American dream of unlimited opportunity.

"I am honoured and I am humbled that you have chosen me as your candidate to be president," he said at a boisterous party convention rally.

"You have my solemn promise that I will only act in the best interest of our country. This is your country. I will be your servant. I will only belong to you, the people," the pugnacious populist vowed.

Mr. Perot, 66, thanked his supporters for "creating" the Reform Party, which he founded after his independent bid for the White House in 1992 garnered 19 per cent of the vote.

In a party vote announced Saturday, Perot captured 65.2 per cent of the vote, thumping former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm's 34.8 per cent.

In a CNN Television interview immediately following his address, Perot said he will announce his vice presidential running mate in the next few days.

Analysts said Perot was likely to fire up his campaign right away, but he has a dwindling chance of defeating Mr. Clinton and Sen. Dole.

The Newsweek poll found three per cent of those surveyed said they would vote for him in the Nov. 5 election, down from at least 10 per cent in previous voter surveys.

Seoul police threaten to use gunfire to halt student violence

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's police chief warned Monday that police could use gunfire to quell radical student violence, as more than 1,000 defiant students entered the second week of a violent campus standoff with riot police.

"Weapons can be used if necessary according to the law," National Police Chief Park Il-Young told a news conference. South Korean police traditionally avoid using gunfire on student demonstrators.

"We will put down violent activities by whatever means necessary, especially against those who use fire-bombs and steel pipes," he said, adding that gunfire should be limited to instances where police lives were endangered.

The warning came as Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung appeared on television and issued a statement urging the students, holed up in two buildings at Seoul's Yonsei University, to surrender.

"The youngsters still involved in the sit-in and demonstrations should cease immediately," the premier said, promising lenient treatment for "mere followers" of those advocating North Korea's ideology.

At dusk three police helicopters including a big orange-coloured transport, hovered above the roof of one of the occupied buildings.

ings.

Police, using loudspeakers, blared repeated calls to the protestors to surrender and undergo interrogation on charges of taking part in banned pro-North Korean rallies.

But the besieged students held a press conference to reject the prime minister's call, vowing not to leave unless given free passage without punishment.

The standoff on the sweltering campus started last Monday when riot police sealed off the campus to crush a rally by some 5,000 student activists demanding speedy unification with North Korea.

Some 700 police and hundreds of students have been injured, some of them seriously.

Police have detained 2,316 students and formally charged 69 of them. Some 680 were still being held at police stations.

Police, who Saturday cut off all food to the students, said less than 1,500 remained holed up in the campus Monday. But radical leaders said more than 3,000 students are inside.

High-ladder vehicles, fire-trucks and mattresses have been brought into the campus, as students threatened to explode inflammable materials inside the buildings.

On Monday, police fired tear gas at dozens of family members and dissidents who made a futile push to get through the police blockade with food, medicines and sanitary pads for the students, witnesses said.

"Let me go in," a middle-aged woman screamed as other relatives waved handkerchiefs or stood anxiously outside the police cordon.

A trickle of exhausted students stumbled out through barricades and were carried away by ambulances. Dozens of students had given themselves up on Sunday and Monday.

Inside the building barricaded and littered with broken furniture, some female students, suffering from exhaustion and hunger, scribbled "I am hungry!" and "I want to go home" on classroom walls.

Many of the protestors resorted to drinking tap water, considered undrinkable here.

"They are our sons and daughters," the Korea National Council of Churches (KNCC) said in a statement Monday, asking police to lift the siege. It also urged the students to abandon violence.

Investigators are hunting for 82 key members of the outlawed Federation of Student Councils or Hanchongryon, which has called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops here and a U.S.-North Korea peace treaty, both opposed by Seoul.

S. Korea launches military and civil exercises

SEOUL (R) — South Korea launched joint military and civil exercises Monday, and its defence minister called a crisis meeting with top officials to be prepared for possible provocations by Communist North Korea.

"Minister Lee Yang-Ho ordered the military to take part as if in real battle, taking into consideration the current situation in North Korea where social unrest is widespread, prompting a danger of provocation (in the South), as a result of severe food shortages," a ministry statement said.

Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho called the crisis meeting with the Chairman of the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff Kim Dong-Jin, Vice-Defence Minister Lee Jeong-Lin and other military leaders to launch the annual Uchi Focus Lens Exercise.

In parallel with the war games, South Korea is also staging exercises involving citizens to test its crisis management capability in case of war and terrorist attacks.

North Korea experts have warned of a possible collapse of the Communist state following floods last year which left the country devastated and on the brink of famine. The floods ruined crops and left about 100,000 people homeless.

Pyeongyang said it was hit by torrential rains last month, which cost at least 116 lives and about \$1.7 billion in damage.

As part of the Uchi exercise and to make the situation more real, South Korea will for the first time since the early 1980s impose curfews on different cities randomly and also cut water and power supplies, government officials said.

"What is noticeable in this year's Uchi exercise is that it includes more real drills, in which citizens are mobilised, to cope with emergencies, such as war and terrorist attacks," said the official at the prime minister's office.

The exercise for citizens is scheduled to be held until Friday, while the military drill will last until Aug. 30.

Refugees flee Burundi after killings

KIGALI (R) — The return home of Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled in 1994 gathered pace Monday after the weekend killing of three refugees in northeast Burundi.

At least 400 refugees from the Magara Camp in the troubled Ngozi area of Burundi were on their way, adding to a total 2,000 that left that camp Sunday, said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We have already got 400 people on the move from Magara. We are deploying our entire truck fleet to Magara today. We've closed operations in Rukuramigabo (in neighbouring Kirundo)," Mr. Stromberg told Reuters in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

"We think everything is going to be happening in Magara. It is going to be a big day. After the event of yesterday, this is going to be big," Mr. Stromberg added.

Hutus who fled Rwanda in 1994 in fear of reprisals for a mass slaughter of the minority Tutsi have been returning home since a coup d'etat brought a Tutsi strongman, Pierre Buyoya, to power in Burundi on July 25.

Aid workers fear that as the return from Magara Camp grows a core of difficult refugees could be left, unwilling to return to Rwanda and unpopular with Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army.

Three Rwandan Hutu refugees were found shot dead just outside Magara camp Sunday.

The bodies of three people who were recognised as refugees were found shot dead just outside the precise limits of the camp," Pirjo Dupuy, UNHCR deputy representative in Burundi told Reuters.

"The bodies were lying in a direction as though they were leaving the camp," she said. She added that the bodies were found Sunday morning, but gave no further details.

Mr. Dupuy said UNHCR was "very concerned" about the latest incident and would request a government investigation.

Mr. Stromberg said that after the 2,000 Rwandan Hutus were repatriated to Rwanda from Magara Camp Sunday, just under 25,000 refugees were left at the camp. Rukuramigabo previously had 12,000 refugees. It was not clear whether all these moved elsewhere.

In all only around 38,000 Rwandans are left in Burundi, down from 100,000 at the start of the year. Burundian authorities accuse the refugees of supporting Hutu rebels in their struggle against the Burundian army.

Meanwhile, Burundi's deposed Hutu president insisted he remains the legal head of state despite fleeing to the U.S. ambassador's residence before a Tutsi army coup last month, according to a statement from him issued by a Burundian party.

Woman chosen to keep Liberia's warlords in line

LAGOS (R) — Ruth Perry, modern Africa's first home-grown woman head of state, has the delicate task of keeping Liberia's fractious warlords in line and guiding her shattered country to elections to end six years of civil war.

Ms. Perry, nominated by West African leaders who met in Nigeria and approved a fresh peace deal with the threat of sanctions to ensure compliance, says she will not flinch from the task.

But some Liberians in their capital Monrovia suggested Ms. Perry's age — 57 — or lingering health problems following a 1986 road accident might handicap her.

"I told the faction leaders I have the touch of velvet, but when it comes to taking a firm line I am as hard as steel," she told Reuters Sunday in a telephone interview from the Nigerian capital Abuja.

A former Liberian senator, Ms. Perry was chosen Saturday by a meeting in Abuja of West African heads of state to chair the ruling council that is to see Africa's oldest republic through to elections in 1997.

Ms. Perry's soft Liberian drawl with an American twang does not echo the tones of tough women leaders in other parts of the world like Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi or Ben-

azir Bhutto.

"The proposition frightened me a bit yesterday, I didn't lobby for the job, but the good lord has made his choice and I will continue to pray for guidance," Ms. Perry said.

She told a radio interviewer later she was counting on Liberia's women to help bring the fighters to heel.

Despite pre-colonial warrior queens — Madagascar boasted one as late as the 19th century — and the fact that Britain's Queen Elizabeth was for a while South Africa's titular head of state, African government has been the almost exclusive prerogative of men since independence in the 1960s.

Africa's first modern female head of government

was Elisabeth Domitien, prime minister of the Central African Republic between January 1975 and April 1976.

Strife-torn Rwanda and Burundi have both had female prime ministers. Agathe Uwilingiyimana of Rwanda was murdered in the 1994 genocide. Sylvie Kinigi became Burundi's prime-minister in October 1993, her government collapsed four months later.

Founded by freed slaves in 1847 Liberia is Africa's oldest republic. The war has killed well over 150,000 people and forced over half the 2.6 million population to flee their homes.

Ms. Perry said she had been in the country throughout the fighting that has sporadically raged

through the streets of the capital and the jungles of the interior since late 1989.

A flare-up in the capital in April and May triggered an orgy of looting and killed hundreds of people.

"Liberians know that I am one of them, that I have suffered as they have suffered and they haven't forgotten," Ms. Perry said.

A widow and mother of seven, she served as a senator in the 1980s during the rule of military leader Samuel Doe, an ethnic Krahn who broke the stranglehold on power of the descendants of the slaves. A warring faction tortured and killed Doe in 1990.

Ms. Perry hit the headlines in the 1980s by blocking a bill proposed by Doe to legalise polygamy.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Life beyond Earth?

WAS THERE life on Mars? This is what recent scientific data suggested to the amazement of all mankind. Admittedly the great discovery of a possible life on planet Mars may not succeed to stir the imagination of many earthlings. What the news is hoped to stir though is the thinking and values of leaders of communities in the four corners of the world and prompt them to start thinking in a cosmic perspective. Many of our worldly issues become dwarfed and rendered insignificant if seen in this wider cosmic sphere. Hopefully the realisation that we human beings are not alone in the universe would make us more sane and reasonable in dealing with issues that separate one people, race or religion from the other.

Against this backdrop the astonishing revelation that there was once life, albeit very simple, in another planet in our own solar system is enough to encourage societies and countries to deal with one another in a more humane manner. True there are still lingering doubts about the recent speculation about the existence of a simple form of life outside of our own planet Earth but the preponderance of the evidence collected thus far points to this high probability. In any case it is highly improbable that there is no life other than the one we Homo sapiens understand. Amongst the billions of stars and planets in the billions of galaxies the chances of finding life is greater than hitherto been thought. That is why we the inhabitants of this Earth should start to view our conflicts and our needs for security and progress within the context of one Homo sapiens family living on this small planet regardless of differences in race, colour or creed. Such differences, much less the smaller ones, should no longer divide us as we come closer to the realisation that people must always remember that we are citizens of a small planet in a huge universe where other forms of life probably more advanced than ours do exist.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Monday blamed the government's decision to hike prices of staple foodstuffs as the real cause for the protests which erupted in Jordan this week. No one can be convinced that external forces were responsible for the protests because everyone realises that the successive governments have failed to handle the economic problems of the country with wisdom and reason, said Bassam Emoush. The writer, who is also member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Party and member of Parliament, said the previous governments had failed to carry out projects intended to address the economic ills and save the country from its present difficulties. The previous governments preferred to give the public sweetened words and avoided taking serious steps towards economic reform, while the present government has failed to draw up a list of priorities for acting towards carrying out its economic reform programme and has imposed heavy burden all at once on the Jordanian citizens, according to the writer. While condemning sedition, violence and acts of sabotage one at the same time hopes that the government would rescind its decisions on price hikes, said the writer. He said the government should arrange for a national economic conference to help it determine priorities in addressing the country's economic crisis.

A WRITER for Al Dustour backed plans by the Ministry of Labour for fixing a minimum wage of wages, stressing that this move would not only encourage Jordanians to take up jobs currently filled by guest workers, but would also help reduce the number of non-Jordanians in the country. Mohammad Subeini urged the media, the labour unions and various organisations to back the ministry's endeavours which he said are designed to safeguard national interests. By fixing the minimum wages of workers and at the same time lifting subsidies on the bread for non-Jordanians, the guest workers would not find Jordan an attractive place for work, and at the same time the local workers who continue to receive subsidies for the bread will be encouraged to take up jobs whose wages are fixed in advance, according to the writer. In praising the ministry's plans, the writer said that they are clearly intended to reduce unemployment and cleverly curtailing the huge volume of non-Jordanians currently competing with Jordanians in the local labour market.

The View from Fourth Circle

1989, 1996 and the poor camel's weary back

By Rami G. Khouri

THE VIOLENT outbursts that Jordan experienced last weekend reveal much about the strengths and weaknesses of our country, our political system, and our incumbent government. The very limited scale of the violence, and its combination of organised confrontation and spontaneous protest, need to be assessed frankly, comprehensively and realistically.

The town of Karak is calm today because of the military presence there and the dusk-to-dawn curfew, but below the surface complex emotions continue to manifest themselves in the minds and hearts of our compatriots. The important question to ask today is not merely whether this or that town is calm. The important questions are: How many other Jordanian limited-income families and communities suffer a narrowing ability to tighten their belts in the face of a continuing cycle of price rises; and, was Karak and the southern mini-explosion a freak political drama ignited primarily by foreign hands, or was it simply the place that erupted first amidst a generally volatile landscape soaked in the flammable discomforts and indignities of economic stress and political dissatisfaction? I would argue that both of our modest explosions in 1989 and 1996 were rooted in a combination of economic and political discontent, with sudden price rises being the catalyst that triggered the street violence.

First, the balance between economic and political reasons for the latest outbursts is rather even, in my view. Economic pressures were the straw that broke the camel's back, but the camel's back was already pretty loaded down with much baggage of political discontent that was accumulated in recent months and years. It is instructive in this respect to appreciate the political significance of the opposition's vehement calls for the government to resign. I believe that the Jordanian political landscape was made fertile for an economic explosion primarily because of the inflexible, sometimes arrogant, manner in which the Kabarti government treated the opposition on the subsidies issue during the past several months.

Though the fundamental economic restructuring of subsidies had to be done, the government failed to strike a democratic balance between the need for harsh economic retrenchment and the need for a consultative political decision-making process that was defined by compromise, humility, sensitivity and, ultimately, consensus-building. The government consulted with the opposition in a formal manner, but it ignored all the alternative subsidies restructuring suggestions that were presented by parliament, the professional associations and others in the country who explicitly expressed a willingness to see bread prices increased and the subsidies burden on the state reduced. The government effectively negated the purpose and value of the consultation process from its inception, by stating

repeatedly that only the government plan, and no other alternative, would be applied by administrative decree, regardless of what parliament proposed.

The boycott of parliament by 23 elected MPs during the debate on bread subsidies was a sign of political immaturity and whimsy on their part, in my view; but from the government's perspective it should have been appreciated as an important sign of the nature and depth of the political discontent felt by the opposition. The government was wrong to respond to the opposition by the deadly combination of heightened criticism and disdain, more or less telling the opposition that its views were irrelevant to government policy-making. The credibility of the democratic process derives explicitly from the political interaction between government and opposition, not from their simultaneous seating in the same room; the behaviour of both the government and the opposition in this case reduced the credibility of our executive and legislative branches of government, revealed that our democratisation process suffers from some serious flaws, and reaffirmed the monarchy as the most — in some cases, the only — genuinely credible political institution in the realm.

The dimensions of our national challenge have been clarified by the events of last weekend: we have to adjust state commodity subsidies, continue the economic structural adjustment process, and enhance the credibility and democraticity of our political decision-making systems. We have to fix our systems of economics and politics together, because both show signs of stress and malfunctioning.

Second, we must define the balance between recent and current dissatisfaction as an underlying cause of the violence. Those who took to the streets were, to a large extent, expressing the underlying and very pervasive frustrations of a Jordanian population that has been staggered by a sequence of frustrating events. Having pinned high hopes on enjoying the fruits of peace with Israel and enhancing their economic and political well-being, most Jordanians in 1995-1996 have suffered a hard series of body-blows, including: A glaring lack of directly felt benefits from peace, continued domestic economic price rises without much improvement in the poverty or unemployment rates, the ignominy of watching Israel wage violent war on Lebanon, the sustained, irritating humiliation of Iraq, the advent of the Likud government with its headline policies, increasingly troublesome water shortages in Amman and other parts of Jordan, and, finally, the rise in prices of bread, dairy products and other commodities. The bread issue, in this context, was merely the most recent and tangible episode of a longer legacy of pain, disappointment and fear that has plagued Jordanians for several years. Maan was the symbol of pressures felt through-

out the population in 1989; Karak was the symbol in 1996. Both are tips of icebergs, meaningful for their reflection of widespread popular concerns as much as for their expression of local particularities.

Precisely because of the multiple and real causes of Jordanians' concerns and fears, the government should have acted in a much more sensitive and democratic manner in addressing the bread prices issue. The lesson of 1979 and beyond is that the Jordanian people are responsible, reasonable and realistic. They were, and continue to be, willing to tighten their belts for the national good and the future well-being of their children; but they also insist that their deepest concerns and fears must be acknowledged by the government as part of the decision-making process.

Finally, we have to explore the balance between domestic discontent and external interference in Jordan's affairs. We must face the fact that external political tendencies have always and will always attempt to promote their interests and ideologies inside Jordan: this is a structural reality that we have to live with, given the pivotal location of Jordan, the ideological ferocity of its neighbours, its economic dependence on external sources, its open and humane society and governance system, and the transnational nature of Islamism, pan-Arabism, and assorted modern Arab ideologies that still hover in our neighbourhood. The parallel reality, though, is that external threats have never really posed an existential threat to Jordan, for they have always been checked and neutralised by the combination of our enlightened leadership, efficient security, and street-smart citizenry, alongside the inherent weakness of foreign appeals amongst a generally satisfied, self-confident community.

External hands are nothing new for Jordan. What is new is that in recent years we have suffered domestic disappointments and discontent that provide the environment in which external parties can try to do their dirty deeds. The most effective way of fighting foreign interference is to strengthen the quality of our domestic political culture. Had the government and the opposition agreed on a phased compromise for a revised bread subsidy, the external agitators would have had little or no opportunity for action.

The violence of 1989 impressed upon us the need for economic and political structural modernisation; the violence of 1996 reminds us that our task remains significantly unachieved, and unchanged. All the political weaknesses I have mentioned above are man-made. All of them can be overcome by a more flexible, engaging, and humble manner by the Kabarti government, and by more seriousness and maturity by the opposition. Let's hope that both have learned from this crisis.

Rumble in Cyprus

Divided Cyprus



Provocative? Well, why have demonstrators repeatedly been able to break through the Greek-Cypriot forces and enter the buffer zone where the clashes have taken place? Why were Turkish-Cypriot troops given orders to open fire on them? And why is all this happening now, after many years in which all the fear and hatred in Cyprus were hidden beneath a superficial calm?

There certainly wasn't anything like a breakthrough in sight on the key question of reunification. The last talks between Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş and Greek-Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides were almost two years ago, and the idea of a loose, bi-zonal federation to replace the old unitary Cyprus state that collapsed in 1964 has made no significant headway since then.

Neither Cypriot leader faces a serious challenge to his power, nor has the Greek-Cypriot government's application to join the European Union yet come to the bargaining table. There is nothing on the island itself to explain the sudden reversion to open confrontation between the two communities. But the

situation in Greece and Turkey proper is quite different.

Maybe it is precisely because Greeks and Turks are basically the same ethnic group with the same cultural reflexes — even though they have been divided by history, language and religion — that each country teaches its children to despise and fear the other. At any rate, in both Greece and Turkey the time-tested way for any politician to win a quick and dirty jolt of popular support is to have a noisy confrontation with the hated alter ego.

Greece's new prime minister has his hands full trying to keep control of an unruly ruling party. Pasok, that was founded and dominated for all of its history by the charismatic leader Andreas Papandreu, who died only this spring. A little excitement in Cyprus that allowed Simitis to strike tough poses on the international stage would do him no harm at home.

The same argument could be even more seductive for the new Turkish prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan. Not only is he Turkey's first Islamist leader, desperately in need of establishing his patriotic credentials with the staunchly secular Turkish

armed forces. He also leads a shaky coalition that urgently needs a foreign crisis to distract the public from its own unsavoury past.

Erbakan's partner in government is the conservative but secular True Path Party, whose leader, Tansu Ciller, insisted as recently as last December's election that she was the main bulwark against the rise of politicised Islam in the country.

What drew these two unlikely companions into the same political bed was the fact that Ciller and her husband faced two potentially fatal judicial inquiries into their personal finances, while Erbakan's Refah (welfare) party faced allegations that it had misused funds collected to aid Muslim victims in Bosnia.

All three inquiries were in the hands of the same senior judge — who was suddenly transferred to the provinces last month, just after the new coalition took power. A foreign crisis could help to divert suspicious minds from the meaning of this happy coincidence.

If a crisis over Cyprus also led to a rupture between Turkey and the West, Erbakan would not mind a bit, since his own goal is to

expand Turkey's ties with the Muslim world.

So is the current unpleasantness in Cyprus merely an outbreak of shadow-boxing manipulated from Ankara and Athens for domestic purposes? In origin, perhaps yes. But the results can be more serious.

Greece and Turkey habitually aim their armies at each other and keep them on a hair-trigger. In the past few years they have also acquired a vast new armoury of modern weapons thanks to NATO's "Operation Cascade", which dumped huge quantities of American and German weapons from the old cold war confrontation in Central Europe onto the two neighbours at fire-sale prices.

In 1993, in fact, Greece and Turkey were the two largest recipients of arms in the entire world, with Turkey alone getting over 1,000 tanks. Huge amounts of new weapons are inherently destabilising to any adversarial relationship. So though the Turks and the Greeks have managed to avoid open war with each put that success to the test.

Nevertheless, it is now going to be tested. Hopefully, not to destruction.

LETTERS

National media: More openness needed

To the Editor:

THE UNFORTUNATE events that happened in Jordan in the past two days have yet again demonstrated the failure of the official media to deal with real life crisis.

With the exception of the Jordan Times, whose coverage by Ayman Safadi demonstrated high professional standards, most of our media freaked out at first site.

While news about Jordan was leading international television and radio broadcasts, Jordan Radio news cast at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday led with a story about a possible row between Israel and the European Union.

I just wonder what the editor of that newscast was thinking about at the time.

Would he or she really expect the people to keep tuned in or was the editor really inviting us to press the next button and tune to foreign newscasts?

It is not enough to give our media outlets new looks. I genuinely feel that more openness and the proper utilisation of technology are needed to help to bring back the confidence of the public in our national media.

Amjad Tadros
Amman

FEATURES

Normal life slowly returns to Karak

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting was attended by Senator Hammad Maiteh, Deputy Hani Hijazin and other dignitaries.

Other Karak dignitaries also condemned the riots.

Earlier in the day, city residents told the Jordan Times that security forces had made arrests throughout the night and the target was mainly members of leftist parties which the government has accused of inciting the riots.

Wafa Al Ayyoubin said security forces came to her house at about 2 a.m. Monday to arrest her husband Abdul Elah Al Majali, who is a leading member of the leftist Unionist Democratic Party.

But she said her husband was on the run and his whereabouts were unknown. She claimed Mr. Majali "had nothing to do with the riots."

City residents told the Jordan Times that it was highly unlikely that riots will erupt again as long as the army was there but did not rule out the possibility of fresh disturbances once it leaves.

Despite the strong presence of the army, many residents said calm was partly restored to the city because of police were replaced by the army with which they feel more comfortable.

"We feel comfortable with the army, not like the police which provoked the people," said a 25 year-old man, echoing a sentiment shared by many city residents who talked to the Jordan Times.

The army was deployed late Saturday in the city of 250,000 people when police forces were withdrawn. No disturbances have been reported since the army positioned its armed personnel carriers on street corners and maintained a vigil from rooftops.

Residents continued to insist that the riots came in reaction to the price hikes and that people took to the streets to express their rejection of economic hardships.

They insisted that the demonstrations were not organised by political parties, blaming the police handling of them for the flare-up of violence.

Some residents of the city said if political activists were involved in the riots, it was after the violence started.

"We are angry because of the raise in bread prices," said a 16-year-old who took

part in the riots.

A member of the Baath party denied that his group was involved in sparking the riots but said that party members took part when the demonstrations started.

A leading member of the Islamic Action Front said the riots would erupt again if "the decision to raise bread prices is not reversed, if the detainees are not released and if the government (of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti) remains in office."

His words were echoed by Karak Mayor Ahmad Mahadin, who said the governorate denied him permission to call for a meeting of city dignitaries and representatives of political parties and unions. Governorate officials declined comment on the charge.

Dr. Mahadin, also a member of the Islamic Action Front, said he would initiate efforts to "calm down the people" if the authorities officially entrust him with doing so and promise him to roll back the lifting of bread subsidies, release detainees and "change the government or its policies."

Asked if he thought the authorities would trust him in light of his stands and political views, he said "No."

"The government has to come up with a positive action if things are to calm down," he said.

Karak Chamber of Commerce President Jamil Al Garalleh said that a 10-member committee has been formed to collect donations to restore the damage which the city incurred during the riots.

He said the committee would start its work soon.

On Friday, rioters burnt down the Civil Consumers' Society and some youngsters were seen looting it. Rioters also put the Arab Bank on fire and attacked four other commercial banks in the city. Tyres were set ablaze in the streets.

On Saturday, rioters also burnt down a building of the Ministry of Education where school textbooks were stored.

The streets of the city were cleaned Sunday but Karak still looks largely deserted with streets desolate and little commercial activity taking place.

Ehud Barak on the future of Jerusalem: In the end, everything will be negotiable

By Daphne Barak

Ehud Barak lives in Kochav Yair, a relatively new township on the way to which the photographer and I argued as to whether or not it falls inside 1967 borders. The answer remains unresolved, as is the owner of the house himself.

Barak is considered a Labour "hawk" and yet he is among Labour's top contenders for the post of prime minister and thinks he just might achieve his goal by the year 2000. He has actually demonstrated an openness to discussion with the Syrians and Palestinians, as well as on the future of Jerusalem.

He received us at his home, a cottage designed in the best of taste, surrounded by a well-tended garden. His attractive wife and daughter served us coffee. A lovely wife, a nice home, beautiful possessions, what more does a man need? The potential prime minister even played the piano for us!

Q. "Lebanon First" as conceived by Benjamin Netanyahu, is it serious?

A. It would be nice — if it were feasible. By the way, this is not a new idea. The late Yitzhak Rabin tried it in the past with Syrian President Hafez Assad. I, myself, when I was chief of staff, tried it with my Syrian counterpart. We made several attempts, we actually said: "We are ready to go into negotiations with Lebanon regarding full withdrawal." The Syrians didn't want it, as it would have given the Lebanese government legitimacy opposite Israel before the Golan problem had been solved.

Q. Actually you are the highest-ranking Israeli to have had direct contacts with Syria?

A. Correct! I have a high regard for the Syrians. I also admired them in battle. Assad is a most serious leader. I have followed his career for the last 20 years and when I was head of intelligence. The Syrian chief of staff, who is a very decisive personality in Syria, is a man in control, with power of logistic coordination (though) obviously, he watches out for Syrian interests, not Israel's and it is impossible to fool him or the Syrians with slogans. I realised then that there is a higher interest, both for us and for the Syrians, to reach agreements without hurting the security requirements of both sides. Here, I am talking about three elements: early alert, terrorism, water.

Q. Did you become personally friendly with the Syrians?

A. Look, we are all human. I participated for many years in clandestine meetings. For example: among the Jordanians with

King Hussein as well as in open meetings with the Syrians. But, in the end, we all represent countries. Walid Mu'alam [Syria's representative for the negotiations with Israel in Washington] is a talented man. The Syrian chief of staff is surprisingly talented. But they are not Zionists, they are Syrians. Only if we treat the Arabs with respect can we create confidence. Patronising them will not bring about any solution. And we will never know if we failed because there was no solution or due to human insensitivity.

Q. You are surely hinting at Benjamin Netanyahu's reluctance to meet with Yasser Arafat.

A. I congratulate David Levy — who is a politically courageous man — on his meeting with Arafat. Levy has always said: "I am realistic." The main problem with the Netanyahu government is that it must come down to more realistic grounds. We demand that our priorities be taken seriously — security, terrorism, water — but they also wish their priorities to be taken seriously.

In the end Netanyahu will be forced to come down from the clouds. If he remains loyal to the opinions of the extreme right, there will be neither peace nor security. At the moment he has been given a grace period. Everyone is being patient with him. Why? Because neither Hosni Mubarak nor Assad nor Arafat want to be held responsible for disrupting the peace process.

Q. And maybe Shimon Peres was mistaken not to deploy from Hebron before the elections?

A. He was correct. How could he take his point of greatest tension, his most sensitive problem, and proceed with it at that moment? He wanted to win the elections and then proceed. Now Netanyahu will be forced to do it. Which of his harsh standpoints would have caused a drop of public expectation in Israel, in Europe, in America? Why should we comply with the Syrians? Well, so be it. But if it is discovered that we are talking about an unwillingness to move forward and a lack of openness — he would not have the confidence of Israelis nor that of the entire world. As a member of the opposition, Netanyahu's balance up to now is really very encouraging...[however] as an Israeli father — my daughter married not long ago, and I expect to be a grandfather next year — I am worried. Until today I could separate the Arabs into those who supported peace (Mubarak, Arafat, King Hussein, even Assad among

others) and the rest, like Qadhafi or Saddam Hussein. Netanyahu is uniting all of them.

I am also worried about economics. Netanyahu was impressed by the good manners of the heads of the Wall Street Stock Exchange who came and listened to him. Well, really! He invited them — they came. Already there is a stoppage of new investments in Israel, a problematic stock exchange [in Tel Aviv] and a loss of confidence. I foresee that the Cairo conference will pale in comparison to the Amman and Casablanca conferences.

Q. Do you maintain your contacts with the Syrians or other Arab leaders?

A. When I was foreign minister, until a few weeks ago, I would pass on messages to Walid Mu'alam and Syria's chief of staff, when necessary. In any case, we spent two full days together at Blare House. After that — with Bill Clinton, in the Oval Office, a more personal contact was created — I received (after the Labour Party lost the elections) letters from a line of foreign ministers, including those in the Arab World. But my present struggle, our struggle, is within the Israeli people, themselves. As a democracy, we are not allowed to act in other frameworks.

Q. Specifically, at which point exactly are the negotiations with Syria?

A. We had reached preliminary discussions about the negotiating conditions. We listened to them — we didn't accept. They listened to us — they didn't accept. But a scanning took place [we were better able to determine] what is normalisation, regional economic cooperation. We reached an initial stage of bilateral understanding regarding the negotiations.

A kind of mapping: What are our differences? Is it possible to bridge them? The most important achievement was attaining serious discussion, a willingness to talk. As a member of the opposition, I am encouraged because a continuation of such discussions is not on the horizon. As a member of the Labour Party, I am not in favour of damaging our security interests, but we must also listen to the interests of the other side, I, contrary to the Likud, am not willing to wait. If we can achieve, without compromising the interests of both sides, agreements and with time a formal peace then we will achieve a mental and psychological peace. And not the other way around! If we wait we are in danger of a new wave of fundamentalism.

Q. Jerusalem!

A. Yes...?

Q. Actually you solved temporary problems like

Gaza and Jericho and you delayed the solution to the problem of problems!

A. But it is not short-sighted to depict the end now. After all that is the hardest burden, the most painful, and in negotiations which could end within three years. Our stand is well-known: Greater Jerusalem, under Israeli jurisdiction. The capital of Israel forever, period.

But, we know that the Palestinians have a completely different opinion. But as Menachem Begin believed — in the end, everything will be negotiable. The Oslo agreements are the children of the Madrid conference, and the grandchildren of the Camp David agreements. And actually these were Likud administrations.

Q. Yossi Beilin has already taken a step forward as to the matter of Jerusalem.

A. Beilin spoke with no authority, and had no consent from the Israeli government. There was no political value to it. The timing of it was even detrimental. But it is important to note that, differences aside, we reached the negotiating table. Netanyahu has damaged negotiations with the Palestinians, is not holding negotiations with Syria nor with Egypt... he maintains contact only because of Mubarak's good manners. The only negotiation he is currently engaged in is with David Levy.

Q. As a former foreign minister, what do you think of the Netanyahu-Levy crisis?

A. Well, can you imagine Bill Clinton managing America's foreign policy without Warren Christopher? Without the State Department? Would he take decisions about Bosnia's destiny without Christopher's cooperation? Only in Netanyahu's Israel can that happen, and soon this period of grace will be over.

Q. Will you be Israel's prime minister?

A. I will run for prime minister in the year 2000. At the moment, it is important to unify the Labour Party. Actually, it was not so much that Netanyahu won — we lost. And there are three reasons for our loss: We got involved with the Meretz Party and as a result developed an anti-religious line. In other words: Meretz holds a Jewish wedding with a navel earring, a nose-ring and [holds it on] Saturday. Moreover the political guidelines of Meretz awoke a suspicion in the Israeli public of an exaggerated eagerness to make concessions. The Likud has always been middle-of-the-road. In addition, Meretz voters are middle class and above — a government party needs a wider constituency.

Q. How are you preparing yourself?

A. It is too early, Daphne.



Ehud Barak

A week ago I was walking with my wife in Karisbad and I shook so many hands, there were so many Israelis there.

Q. Should Shimon Peres go home?

A. Stop! That's much too delicate, don't even mention it. "No Comment". Leave it alone!

Q. The starting line for your campaign: When will you declare it?

A. It is already declared. I am well placed at the starting line. Every Israeli over seven knows who I am and the exact timing of the start of the race is not important. Anything Netanyahu did, I'll do later and better. I will do it as a professional. If Netanyahu adopts our political outline it will be easier.

Q. What do you think of this scenario — Bill Clinton is reelected in November and Benjamin Netanyahu goes for a unified national government jointly with your party?

A. Look! We put emphasis on independent decisions. We do not look positively at American interference with internal policy! On the other hand, Clinton's government has contributed greatly to the Middle East peace process. So the matter is delicate.

Q. Then let's leave Clinton. Are you playing with the idea of a national unity government?

A. I don't know. It isn't a technical problem, but rather a problem of essence. I will not join a government that paralyzes the political process in the region. If Netanyahu's government chooses the road we started our door will not be closed. At this moment the overtures are not serious. They mostly serve [to aggrandise] those who make them.

Q. Netanyahu used his family — his third wife, his children — during the campaign: Will you do the same?

A. I don't know — since

Netanyahu started it. Look, it goes against the grain for my wife Navah and my daughters to be in the spotlight as they are not so inclined. On the other hand, the ongoing Americanisation of the elections brings about family exposure. We shall see... It is understood that if I run it will be in good taste and with a greater moderation than we see in the current climate.

Q. Before you were called to the government you tried your hand in the private sector. Has the world missed out on a promising entrepreneur?

A. The truth is that I was a business man for only four months. I knew all that time that I would get a call from [the late] Yitzhak Rabin. The call came and Shimon Peres seconded the decision. Neither of them were young anymore. And because I was cognizant of the "complexity" and the "problems" of the Middle East, through my work in the army, it was clear to me that I must respond positively.

It was a most fascinating peek into the business world, even though they are always trying to trick you, [and] to ensure that you fail. Just like politics. But with imagination, with daring I found out that if I had to go back there I can always fall back on my feet.

Q. In Egypt, the president must always have experience in the Armed Forces. Must a leader in the Middle East come from an army background?

A. We, who have spent so much time at war — and I spoke about this with Mubarak, with [former Jordanian Prime Minister] Zeid Ben Shaker with the Syrian chief of staff — believe in the importance of peace, and it's very high price. Do you know which of the nicknames given to me I like the most? The chief of staff of peace!

LETTERS

National media: More openness needed

Professional associations explain their position

(Continued from page 1)

government prior to the announcement of the hikes last week.

In an obvious reference to the riots in the south, the statement condemned "all forms of violence."

Citizens have the right to express their opinion but they should do so through constitutional means, said the statement.

Separately, the Jordan Writers Association, one of the 11, issued a statement on Sunday saying it was not a party to the demand for the resignation of the government.

Mr. Sharif, who took over as president of the JPA in July elections, also said the name of the association was removed from newspaper reports of the opposition statement.

Mr. Sharif, responsible editor of the Arabic-language Al Dostour daily, said he was "surprised" to see the name of the JPA as one of the signatories to the statement, a copy of which was sent to Al Dostour for publication on Sunday.

"I immediately contacted all other dailies and informed them that the JPA was not a signatory to the statement," he said.

Other dailies promptly removed the name of the JPA from their reports on the opposition statement, which carried the name of 11 political parties and 11 professional associations.

Asked what was the posi-

tion of the JPA on the issue of the increase in the prices of bread and fodder, Mr. Sharif said: "We support a common ground to resolve the problem."

The 11 political parties and 11 professional associations are allies in a front that opposes the normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel following the signing of the peace treaty between the two countries in October 1994.

But, said Mr. Sharif, "as far as the JPA is concerned, we insist that we are consulted on every issue before any statement is issued carrying the JPA name."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said meanwhile notables from Tafayleh Governorate condemned the riots.

Tafayleh Mayor Ahmad Qaraan said the attacks on government institutions by the rioters were "sabotage of public property" and urged citizens to collect donations to rebuild these institutions.

His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received cables expressing allegiance to the Throne from citizens.

Among those sending the cables, which also condemned the violence and damage to public property, were 15 associations, Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Samir Qardan.

All moves are aimed at self-reliance — HM

(Continued from page 1)

happening after a break of several years. I found the monarch in good health and our meeting was characterised by true brotherly feelings and true friendship. We had candid discussion on all matters and I came away thankful to the monarch and the other brothers in Saudi Arabia. The visit constituted a new platform for future cooperation and concerted efforts to achieve the common goals.

In an interview carried by the Jeddah-based Al Bilad newspaper, King Hussein praised the leadership of King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Saudi support for Jordan.

Saudi-Jordanian relations "are as strong as before," the King told the paper.

Recalling that Prince

Abdullah had contacted him over the phone on Saturday, the King said the phone call reflected "the deep and strong relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia."

Q. At your latest meeting with the Israeli premier did you discuss Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation. When are the citizens expected to reap the fruits of peace?

A: The fruits of peace cannot fall on us suddenly from the sky. These are projects and opportunities for people to work on them. However, we are about to start implementing these projects soon for the benefit of our people and for the future generations.

Q. What do you think of Israel's "Lebanon first" offer? Would Israel implement it unilaterally?

A: Everything is possible. If we want to be realistic we must start contacts and reach an understanding between Israel and Syria and Lebanon so that the withdrawal can take place. There must be an attempt on the part of Syria and Israel to establish peace and I believe the peace process will continue to achieve that goal.

Q. What is your message to the Arab Nation and the Arab leaders through MBC?

A: I say that Jordan will remain faithful to its principles and the national objectives. Jordan will remain a solid fortress in the face of all difficulties and its people will remain steadfast under all circumstances and against all dangers and will try to contribute to a unified and strong Arab Nation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat fears coup by militants

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Militants from abroad are planning a coup against the Palestinian self-rule authority, President Yasser Arafat warned here on Monday. "I'm convinced that Islamic fundamentalist groups, not in Palestine but abroad, are trying to mount a coup against us," Mr. Arafat told Israeli journalists in Gaza City, before leaving for Switzerland. He did not elaborate. On Friday, senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Mahmoud Abbas said that Mr. Arafat had already been the target of several assassination bids in recent weeks. "There have been several attempts on the life of President Arafat by individuals and organisations hostile to peace," he told the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot. "These attempts have no more influence on President Arafat than previous attempts," said Mr. Abbas.

Kuwaiti crown prince meets Hrawi

BEIRUT (AFP) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah met here Monday with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi on the final leg of a regional tour which has already taken him to Egypt and Syria. Mr. Hrawi and Sheikh Saad, who is accompanied by Finance Minister Nasser Al Rudhane and Badr Al Humaidy, director of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), discussed the stalled Israeli-Arab peace process and bilateral relations. The Lebanese president said the peace process was passing through a "delicate" phase. Close Arab cooperation was needed to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the "land-for-peace" principle and international resolutions, he said. Sheikh Saad stressed the need to strengthen bilateral relations and noted that Lebanon had backed Kuwait when it was invaded by Iraqi troops in 1990. About 30,000 Lebanese work in Kuwait and the KFAED has already granted some \$400 million in loans to help finance reconstruction projects in Lebanon since the end of the country's 1975-90 civil strife. The Kuwaiti crown prince owns 75 per cent of the shares of the Holiday Inn, a war-damaged hotel in Beirut due to be renovated, and a palace in Yarz, east of Beirut. In addition, the Kuwaiti prince owns a summer palace in Aley, a mountain resort southeast of the Lebanese capital. Sheikh Saad was due to meet Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri during his two-day visit.

UAE investments top \$38b in 4 years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has invested more than \$38 billion over the past four years to maintain growth despite fluctuating oil prices, official figures have showed.

Investment in energy, industry and other sectors stood at around 142.1 billion dirhams (\$38.7 billion) between 1992 and 1995, according to the central bank and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

With an annual average of around 35.5 billion dirhams (\$9.6 billion), the invest-

ment accounted for nearly a quarter of the gross domestic product (GDP).

"The level is very high in international standards. It is also higher than that in most developing countries," the central bank said.

Bankers said high investment helped the UAE maintain positive growth rates in the overall GDP despite a decline in the oil sector in some years.

They noted nearly two thirds of the investments were pumped by the private sector into non-oil industries, trade, farming, construction and services.

While the oil sector steadily declined between 1992 and 1994, the non-oil sector recorded positive growth rates over the past four years.

A breakdown showed the non-oil sector grew to 94.7 billion dirhams (\$23.8 billion) in 1995 from 77.9 billion dirhams (\$21.2 billion) in 1992. This pushed the overall GDP to 143.9 billion dirhams (\$39.2 billion) from around 131.6 billion dirhams (\$35.8 billion).

The chamber report showed more than 60 per cent of the investments were made by Abu Dhabi,

the main oil producer in the UAE.

Bankers expect an increase in investment in the next few years as Abu Dhabi is pressing ahead with projects to expand its oil production capacity and set up multi-billion-dollar refining and petrochemical ventures.

The UAE produces around 2.16 million barrels per day of oil under an OPEC-decreed quota and its crude reserves of 98 billion barrels account for nearly 10 per cent of the world's total oil resources.

Japanese dropping old work habits for better careers

TOKYO (AFP) — Traditional Japanese work habits which saw staff sticking to the same company for life are dying out with a younger generation happy to switch companies to boost careers.

In the past workers would enter into an unofficial pact with a company — they would work there for life while in return the company would guarantee them a job and a pension.

But the poorer economy has seen companies unable to maintain their end of the bargain with more layoffs.

While firms are trying to maintain the rule for employees who have been there for some years or who are coming to the end of their careers, for many younger employees the certainties have gone out of their working lives.

A recent government study showed that 60 per cent of adults are prepared to do what was once unthinkable — change jobs if it will improve their careers, up from 42 per cent in 1987.

Among the younger age group, those between 30 and 40, the percentage was even higher 71.4 per cent, while for those in the 20-30 range it hit a staggering 77.4 per cent.

The majority of those polled, 63 per cent, particularly the younger workers, felt that the old system of linking salaries to the number of years served with a company should be scrapped.

Even if other polls show the majority of those over 40 still

want the old ways, the poll made it clear that "there is a growing awareness that lifetime employment and the seniority principle, two typical features of the Japanese corporate system, should be revised," the study report said.

Yoshiko Kanazawa, who works for a company specialising in senior management placement, agrees with the government study.

"In Japan, changes are always slow. But the trend is clear. Gradually, the lifetime employment and the seniority-based wage system are declining in favour of individual ability and performance," she said.

"The main reason is the necessity for Japanese companies to adapt to international standards to stay in competition," she added.

Also changing is the practice whereby in the past a worker would be moved around different departments within the same company during their career.

Now the emphasis is more and more on specialisation, she said.

In its last annual report the ministry of employment emphasised this change saying that "work ethics are changing mostly in young generations, with the tendency to keep working for the same company decaying and the tendency to be specialists growing."

But it has come at a cost. The tendency to specialise has meant an increase in unemployment, especially among the young, with overall jobless figures now standing at 3.5 per cent of the

workforce according to official figures, and possibly double that according to analysts.

A poll published in May by the government Economic Planning Agency found that of 1,993 companies listed on the stock exchange, 44.6 per cent said they were planning to change their seniority-based wage system, while 3.4 per cent said they had already done so. However, for most of the companies it was less a desire to change old ways than to reduce their wages bill at a time of poor economic outlook.

Meanwhile, the labour ministry said in an annual report that young workers frustrated with Japan's traditional rigid employment system are behind the record-high jobless rate.

"Work ethics are changing mostly in young generations, with the tendency to keep working for the same company decaying and the tendency to be specialists growing," the ministry said in the 1996 white paper.

"Amid these changes in the labour supply side, there has emerged a problem that workers cannot always give full play to their abilities," it said, while noting Japan's unemployment rate hit a post-war record 3.5 per cent in May.

The highest level of unemployment was among those aged between 15 and 20 — 7.1 per cent — with the next highest 4.2 per cent for those aged 25-to-34 years.

"It is observed that those who cannot have opportunities to demonstrate their abilities hop jobs," the ministry white paper said.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Begin the week properly today by keeping promises to those at home, and if any delays occur, they will be of short duration. Later this evening you can spend some time on a special project and make some progress.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Use a different approach at vital concerns today and give them all of your attention. The evening is good for socialising and going to exciting places with close friends and have some fun, however, do not stay out too late.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use a new method of operation today for handling financial affairs and give them all of your attention during the daytime. Later this evening you will be able to spend some quality time with your mate and loved ones and have fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you are not more thoughtful of a fellow associate today, you could easily lose this valuable ally and make your career activities much less successful. Later tonight visit with close friends and have some fun in their company.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Analyse your career activities well and you can handle them more efficiently and profitably at this time. Be on the look out for a new opportunity which will present itself this evening and will make you quite successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can have a wonderful time with your friends during the daytime today, however, tonight be loyal to one in authority who has your career future in his or her hands and who can make your business life difficult.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Try not to disagree with anyone today, either at home, or in business, and make a good impression on a prominent person who can control your career activities for the days ahead and has the power to make you successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take a walk today with a fellow associate and be more willing to compromise and you improve the relationship which has developed. Later tonight will be good for meeting with close friends out on the town for some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You had better handle those promises you have made to others today and gain their goodwill. Watch your finances later this evening so that you do not spend beyond your means or you could find yourself short for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study the cost well today before getting into recreational activities. Get your talents working more efficiently before you decide to tackle some important project which may be too complicated at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you see an expert today, you can solve some family matters more wisely at this time. Be loyal to a family member who is disturbed and is not sure of the outcome from any discussions which you will have between you both.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have fine judgement today so be sure to help a friend who is in dire predicament, so give good advice to this individual any you will make a difference in his or her life, which will make you more prosperous.

Oman sees no budget deficit in 2000

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman expects to wipe out its budget deficit in 2000 through spending cuts and measures to ease reliance on volatile oil prices, an official report has said.

The deficit was projected at 218 million Omani riyals (\$566.8 million) in 1996 and will gradually be reduced to 87 million riyals (226.2 million) in 1999 before disappearing the following year, said the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG).

"Oman has affirmed that reducing the budget deficit in the next five years and eliminating it in 2000 is a priority," it said in its annual report.

Announcing its fifth dev-

elopment plan early this year, Oman trimmed expenditure to 10.09 billion riyals (\$26.23 billion) from 10.8 billion riyals (\$28 billion) in the 1996-2000 plan.

Officials said the plan would focus on economic diversification and giving a greater role to the private sector through privatisation and the introduction of more investment incentives.

Oman has already sold off five public institutions and is planning to set up multi-billion dollar projects with the private sector.

The reforms, the widest in the region, also include opening up the stock market to foreigners and allowing them to own 100 per cent of some projects.

Other Gulf oil producers have also taken measures to

tackle their budget deficit and repair damage to their economies from weak crude prices.

ACIG said the reforms in Oman were paying off, with its gross domestic product (GDP) surging by 10.4 per cent to 4.78 billion riyals (\$12.42 billion) in 1995 from 4.33 billion riyals (\$11.25 billion) in 1994. It said the oil sector, which accounted for around 40 per cent of the GDP, grew by 12.8 per cent while the industrial sector increased by 14 per cent.

"Oil is still the driving force in Oman's economy as it accounts for nearly 90 per cent of the total exports," it said.

But it said Oman, which produces around 855,000 barrels per day (bpd), was

taking steps to expand other sectors, including manufacturing and farming.

It estimated Oman's debt at \$3.9 billion at the end of 1995, including \$1.3 billion in bonds and other internal borrowings. The debt accounted for 28 per cent of the GDP and its servicing of around 120 million riyals (\$312 million) formed nine per cent of the exports.

The current account, a barometer of economic performance, recorded a deficit of 390 million riyals (\$1.01 billion) in 1995 compared with a surplus of 480 million riyals (1.25 billion) in 1990. ACIG attributed the shortfall to an increase in imports and remittances by the foreign labour.

African leaders say investors demanding too much

ACCRA (R) — African leaders have recently accused Western businessmen of failing to respond to efforts on the continent to create an attractive business environment.

In speeches laced with impatience, sarcasm and bitterness, speakers at a forum in Accra said foreign investors were demanding too much security for their money.

"Where are you?" Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings asked at a roundtable focusing on how to reverse Africa's falling share of direct foreign investment.

"We have laid virtually every foundation that had to be laid — roads, telecommunications, electricity. Don't let it go waste," he said.

"Mr. Rawlings has been praised by Western creditors for pursuing a decade of economic reforms that have become the benchmark in the region. But Ghanaians say reforms marked by painful spending cuts and massive devaluation of the local currency have not been matched by foreign investment inflows.

His comments were echoed by South African Vice-President Thabo Mbeki and Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe.

"When will you (investors) come to Africa? Are you going to wait until your investments here are 100 per cent risk-free?" he asked. Frank Kennedy from U.S.-based Equator Bank acknowledged that Africa had

gone a long way towards improving the climate for private foreign investments. But he said the continent still needed "fine-tuning on tax issues, inter-state trade and tariffs, bureaucracy, monetary policies, foreign exchange and liquidity in African stock exchanges."

His remarks drew a strong reaction from Mr. Mugabe. "How can you insist on absolute fine-tuning in countries whose backgrounds are colonial, where people have to start building schools and roads because colonialism never minded?" he asked. "We lack material resources, that's why we now find ourselves kneeling before those (former colonial rulers) who robbed us of our resources

for centuries. And if they come, they come with a degree of wanting to control our economy — and to even take over politically," Mr. Mugabe added.

Other leaders denounced what they called the bad image projected of Africa by the international media. Africa is

always associated with failure. No matter how hard we try, we always run into prejudice," Mr. Mbeki added. Heads of state and government officials present were in agreement that without private foreign and domestic investment, Africa had little prospect of developing.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- The area between
- Significant period
- Willowy
- Church instrument
- Stubborn critter
- Decorate again
- Certain tournament
- Golf club
- Sheepfold occupant
- On the — (no longer friendly)
- Fit for cultivation
- Tiny
- So be it
- Decorative hangings
- Took care of nestlings
- Type of seal
- Influence
- Atop
- Of the same length
- Equine ladies
- Bowling alley feature
- Encounter
- Soon
- Certain horse
- Malicious report
- Diverged
- Lethal items
- Tennis term
- Item for TV control
- Tempo
- That girl
- Bridge feature
- Serious eating
- Fluid carrier, anatomically
- Certain heavenly bodies
- Wanders
- Rind
- Devoided
- Scandinavian people

DOWN

- Suffering pain
- Ship's front
- Chills and fever
- Is capable
- Bestowed naturally
- Ham it up
- Applies with friction
- Baba
- Three-sided
- Ginseng, e.g.
- Object of worship
- Not any part
- Glossy paints
- Regrets
- Blushing
- Ethanol of the Green Mountain Boys
- Consider
- Certain critiques
- Swaying dizzily
- Five-sided
- Extreme rage
- Heavenly time period
- Gift receiver
- Window areas
- Social misfit
- Loss of sanity
- Model for imitation
- Pecan
- Fruit
- Landlord's concern
- Certain reply letters
- Dueler's weapon
- Leonine feature
- Batter's play
- Cause to wither
- Smokehouse items
- Other
- Sine — non
- Pasture sound

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THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"I didn't want to break my diet, but millions of angry fat cells were starting to riot!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argilison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YARIN
EMAHR
TYGODS
INGALD

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "TURNED OFF"

Yesterday's Jumbles: VISOR BANDY MUFFIN DULCET
Answer: When he turned on the phony charm she was — TURNED OFF

Peanuts

SPIKE: WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE HOSPITAL?
I HAVE THE FLU..
WRITE TO MOM, WILL YOU? TELL HER TO COME SEE ME..
I WILL! I'LL WRITE TO HER..
TELL HER WE'RE IN FRANCE..
I WILL
TELL HER WHERE FRANCE IS..

Andy Capp

THE WAY SOME OF THOSE BLOKES TALK ABOUT WOMEN..
YOU'LL NEVER BE ANY GOOD UNLESS YOU WORK AT IT..
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY ARE MOST OF 'EM OVER THE HILL AT THIRTY-
YOU CAN'T TALK SENSE TO A WOMAN

Mutt'n'Jeff

GOSH, WE CAN'T GO HOME — WE'VE BEEN OUT ALL NIGHT PLAYING CARDS!
MY WIFE WOULD THROW US OUT!
CAN I HELP YOU, GENTLEMEN?
YEH, PULL THE COVERS OVER US — WE FEEL CHILLY

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Busi
Pressur
on dina
eases

DA
JEWEL

FOR RENT
3 bedrooms apart
Shirazani, second
220 sqm.
2 bedrooms in A
area, third floor, 190
Abdoun Real E
Tel: 810605 - 81
Fax: 810621

Happy Day
Patisserie
Soups & Salads
OPEN DAILY F
10 A.M. - 1
Tel. 85719
Fax 89866
Umm Uthai
behind Beta
Hotel

Pressure on dinar eases

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Many people who rushed to buy dollars over the past three days on fear that riots in the south would "burn" their small dinar savings are now back in the market selling their dollars at a loss as concern over the strength of the Jordanian currency is fading.

According to currency dealers contacted by the Jordan Times, the market rate is usually one or two fils higher than the Central Bank fixed rate of 708/710 fils to the dollar but the riots that flared up in the south created a high demand for dollars and the market rate shot up to 715.5 fils on Sunday.

Jamal Fariz, a senior staff member at the Jordanian Investment and Finance Bank, said the dinar was under pressure over the past 72 hours but the situation has eased today (Monday). He added that the dinar/dollar market rate was lower at 713.5 fils Monday after having reached a peak of 715.5 fils.

"There was a capital flight but not very much," Mr. Fariz said without being able to give even an estimate of the amount. However, he pointed out, "there is a return to the dinar to take advantage of the spread between the interests on dollars and the Jordanian currency."

Jamil Qattan, the head of the foreign exchange section at the Union Bank for Saving and Investment, said there was a large supply of dollars in the market as people were returning to dinars. "Some were beseeching us to buy the dollars they had purchased the day before," Mr. Qattan said. "I urge all those who want to avoid more loss to switch back from dollars to dinars because the exchange rate right now (12.18 p.m. Monday) is 713.5 fils and is likely to drop to 713 fils or even less Tuesday."

He said the rush for dollars was mainly from small savers who feared that their JD 2,000 average savings would lose their value due to the disturbances or a sudden devaluation of the dinar.

Mr. Fariz told the Jordan Times that there was widespread rumours of a currency devaluation on Sunday, but there was no significant action in the market to reflect the intensity of such talk.

Arab Gulf states seek markets for surplus cement

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are looking for new cement markets as factory expansions and stable domestic demand here create a surplus, industry experts have said.

After the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, demand for cement rose and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries boosted their production, the experts said.

The increase in demand was due to Kuwait rebuilding after the Iraqi invasion and to the number of construction projects in the GCC that had been put on hold because of the war.

Production capacity was increased by millions of tonnes, but now consumption in the area has stabilised.

"In the next one or two years, GCC countries will have an output capacity that

largely exceeds domestic demand," a cement plant manager told AFP.

"We already have the capability to meet that demand as most plants have increased their designed capacity. There is a need to look abroad to find outlets for the surplus production or prices could plunge," he said. By the end of 1995, GCC states had invested nearly \$5.7 billion to set up 22 major cement plants, with a capacity of about 28.8 million tonnes a year, according to the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC), which advises on Gulf non-oil industrial policies.

The investments accounted for more than nine per cent of the total capital pumped by the 15-year-old alliance into the industrial sector and are part of an industrialisation drive to

ease reliance on unpredictable oil earnings.

Between 1992 and 1994, actual production jumped from 22 million tonnes to about 25.3 million tonnes while local consumption surged to nearly 28.2 million tonnes. This forced the GCC to resort to imports to bridge the gap as some plants failed to reach maximum capacity due to lack of maintenance.

But demand slackened in the following year to reach 24.8 million tonnes and is expected to remain almost unchanged in the next few years due to relative stability in the construction sector, the Doha-based GOIC said.

The report forecast GCC cement output capacity to climb to 37.2 million tonnes in 1997 and said this would create a surplus of about three

million tonnes, which could soar to 6.4 million tonnes in 1998.

"This will enable this pioneering industry to regain its position before 1991, when it managed to achieve self-sufficiency and export the surplus to international cement markets," the report said.

"This will also make it necessary for the cement producers to study external markets to export the expected surplus in the coming years."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — launched their cement industry in early 1960s, when they kicked off one of the biggest construction drives in modern history to build their infrastructure and turn their desert oases into large cities.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BANKING, STOCKS, BONDS, CURRENCY, COMMODITIES											
19/08/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	CONTRACT'S RANGE	P / N	QTY.	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF	NO. OF
LOW	HIGH			SHARES	SHARES	SHARES	SHARES	SHARES	SHARES	SHARES	SHARES
280.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.59	9	420	82190	219.50	219.50	—	—
3.800	3.000	BANK OF JORDAN	12.0	0.00	2	300	915	3.00	3.00	0.02	—
1.330	1.880	MID-EAST INV. BK.	12.0	0.00	8	410	3815	1.80	1.80	0.02	—
9.750	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.2	3.01	3	600	2976	4.57	4.58	0.02	—
1.840	1.850	JOR. GULF BANK	6.3	7.87	7	31000	27590	1.80	1.80	0.01	—
3.950	3.350	JOR. GULF BANK	15.3	0.00	2	250	600	3.60	3.60	0.01	—
4.180	3.300	JOR. GULF BANK	17.0	0.00	5	6450	22618	3.60	3.60	0.01	—
4.160	1.700	JOR. GULF BANK	16.0	0.00	3	400	700	1.75	1.75	0.01	—
4.150	3.000	JOR. GULF BANK	16.0	0.00	5	1333	3936	3.00	3.00	0.01	—
1.090	1.240	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	13	26090	6590	1.25	1.25	0.01	—
5.850	4.500	AMMAN BANKING CO.	23.8	0.00	3	129	587	4.60	4.60	0.01	—
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
2.870	2.500	UNITED INSURANCE	11.3	4.26	1	1800	4950	2.82	2.75	0.07	—
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.95	29	15167	32905	1.50	1.51	0.02	—
9.250	8.300	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	19.4	1.63	4	3100	18845	9.25	9.00	0.25	—
2.330	1.000	RAIL. SOCIETY	9	0.00	32	15500	17163	1.10	1.13	0.03	—
1.390	1.950	RAILWAY EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	3100	2103	1.90	1.90	0.01	—
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	9.8	3.36	6	1300	2802	2.07	1.87	0.20	—
1.200	1.520	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	500	455	1.51	1.51	0.01	—
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.6	3.07	17	7097	23132	3.28	3.26	0.02	—
3.940	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	10.1	0.00	1	700	1960	2.81	2.80	0.01	—
3.950	4.780	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	15.6	0.00	1	800	2275	5.18	5.14	0.04	—
30.550	6.730	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	9.1	0.00	10	2752	16182	9.22	9.04	0.18	—
6.150	6.420	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	8.9	3.59	8	4726	32879	7.05	6.94	0.10	—
6.450	5.650	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	7.4	4.20	2	4000	23960	6.10	5.95	0.15	—
2.960	1.710	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	9.6	0.00	2	300	819	1.74	1.72	0.02	—
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. CO.	6.3	0.00	2	450	1508	3.40	3.35	0.05	—
1.740	1.400	LITHIUM & POTASH	9	0.00	20	20400	9790	1.48	1.48	0.01	—
1.500	1.050	ARAB PAPER CO.	8.4	0.00	12	9450	17015	1.24	1.23	0.01	—
1.210	1.660	NATIONAL IND.	9.9	0.00	10	8000	5762	1.67	1.67	0.01	—
2.190	1.050	DESIGNED PAPER CO.	9	0.00	1	500	540	2.70	2.70	0.01	—
3.600	2.540	UNIV. COMM. IND.	71.4	0.00	1	8100	5315	1.17	1.16	0.02	—
1.600	1.830	JOR. SULTAN-CHEN	9	0.00	2	500	425	1.87	1.85	0.02	—
1.180	1.050	IRON FARM CO.	27.5	0.00	12	3158	7662	1.49	1.47	0.02	—
1.430	1.050	SANITARY IND.	27.5	0.00	1	500	1238	1.23	1.21	0.02	—
3.380	1.760	UNIV. COMM. IND.	10.4	10.44	4	360	5838	1.92	1.88	0.04	—
2.100	1.240	JOR. IND. REFINERY	27.5	0.00	9	3750	3894	1.37	1.37	0.01	—
1.790	1.950	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	26.5	0.00	9	4450	1616	1.89	1.89	0.01	—
1.490	1.090	IND. COMM. IND.	26.5	0.00	12	3771	4310	1.15	1.14	0.01	—
2.120	1.130	UNION CH. & WARE	29.1	0.00	6	1350	1471	1.18	1.18	0.01	—
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
128.63	128.63	INDEX	106.46	0.43	175	88073	166664	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTAL											
128.63	128.63	INDEX	106.46	0.43	175	88073	166664	—	—	—	—
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 19/08/1996											
820	510	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.5	0.00	2	1750	980	59	56	0.03	—
810	520	JOR. TRADE FAC.	16.6	0.00	3	2250	2418	69	63	0.02	—
940	700	UNION INV. SOC.	70.8	0.00	8	15390	3936	78	74	0.04	—
1.200	820	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	9	3600	1890	94	94	0.01	—
1.440	1.440	JOR. INDUS. REFINERY	9	0.00	1	5000	2950	94	94	0.01	—
970	610	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	1000	610	62	61	0.01	—
1.780	1.370	SAEL. CHLORINE	8	0.00	8	1650	5270	1.43	1.43	0.01	—
1.160	1.530	RAIL. SOCIETY	9	0.00	4	2500	1345	56	54	0.02	—
1.100	420	RAILWAY EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	3750	2345	64	63	0.01	—
1.060	770	JORDAN STEEL	2	0.00	2	2181	1678	77	77	0.01	—
1.950	950	MID-EAST PETROLEUM	9	0.00	2	549	214	65	64	0.01	—
900	640	RAIL. SOCIETY	9	0.00	2	120	72	65	64	0.01	—
860	440	IND. COMM. IND.	32.0	0.00	7	4286	2228	83	82	0.01	—
1.450	170	IND. COMM. IND.	9	0.00	10	3500	2002	79	79	0.01	—
1.500	530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	6.1	0.00	10	6100	4285	68	69	0.01	—
GRAND TOTAL											
88	57116	31483	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

S: Stock dividend during the past 12 months
W: Listed during the past 12 months
P: P/E ratio is 100 or more
N: Negative P/E
E: Earnings is more or less for the most recent year



Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

Study reveals erosion of income and shrinkage of middle class

*The results of a study for planning Jordan central region have shown an erosion in the average annual income of the Jordanian family and, as such, a shrinkage of the middle class in the Kingdom.

According to the study, there are 434,000 families in the central region, accounting for 65 per cent of the total number of families in the country. The average annual income per family amounts to JD3,929 but the per capita income available for spending is JD629 per year. The situation differs from area to another as the average monthly per capita income in Amman reaches JD765 while the figure comes to JD540 in Zarqa and Balqa.

Fairoz Mas'oud, the director of the "project" for planning the central region explained that the figures show an erosion in the annual income of the family and a shrinkage of the middle class in the Jordanian society. He indicated that the average size of the family was 5.7 persons. The study revealed a high concentration of industries in the Amman Governorate

with a total of 7,123 plants. The remaining 464 industries were spread in Zarqa (321), Balqa (113) and Madaba (30). Nearly 89,000 workers are employed in all these industries. The number of commercial entities in the central region was about 30,000 representing 76 per cent of the total number of businesses in the Kingdom. Over 75,000 persons work in this sector which grows at a rate of 1.2 per cent.

As to the employment situation, about 70 per cent, or 450,000 persons of the workforce, are employed in the central region. Of the number, four per cent are non-Jordanians. Most of the workforce (50 per cent) works in social services and general administration followed by 15 per cent in the commercial sector including restaurants and hotels. The mining and the convertible industries sector employs 11 per cent, the construction sector eight per cent, the transportation sector seven per cent and the agricultural field six per cent, the study showed (Al Ra'i).

REUTERS • REUTERS •

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NUS	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.4633	0.6728	0.6476	107.84	1.3730	161.80	1.6670	5.0880
DE Mark	0.6728	1.0000	0.4354	0.8112	72.54	0.9234	1019.17	1.2118	3.4236
GB Sterling	1.5444	2.2736	1.0000	0.7876	166.83	1.2103	1633.77	2.5745	7.8711
CHF Franc	0.8112	1.2103	0.7876	1.0000	143.75	1.1378	1255.70	1.3820	4.2172
JP Yen	0.0074	0.0074	0.0060	0.0069	1.0000	0.0090	10.36	0.0090	0.0090
CA Dollar	0.7283	1.0681	0.4699	0.8798	1.27	1.0000	1104.86	1.2118	3.7152
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0006	0.0007	100.48	0.0009	1.0000	0.0009	0.0009
NL Guilder	0.3636	0.3636	0.3636	0.3636	3.7603	0.3636	3.7603	1.0000	3.7603
FR Franc	0.1936	0.1936	0.1936	0.1936	2.0048	0.1936	2.0048	0.1936	1.0000

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oil	Unit	Previous	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	21.85	21.75	SA Riyal	0.2866	0.3964	0.17284	0.32171	28.768
W. Texas	22.65	22.55	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40478	0.1783	0.32832	29.377
Bony	21.85	21.75	KW Dinar	0.4404	0.95524	0.12663	0.42091	360.38
Gulf	16.78	16.32	BH Dinar	0.3770	3.94322	1.17733	3.2	286.20
Dubai	209.00	207.00	CY Pound	2.184	3.2153	1.4002	2.6089	233.25

Hotpot Zamindar fails at Deauville

DEAUVILLE (R) — Bahamian Bounty, one of three British runners in the Group 1 Prix Morny, has floored the hotpot Zamindar in a surprise outcome to the big two-year-old test.

Zamindar, the mount of Thierry Jarnet, found the burden of English 2,000 Guineas favouritism too much as he attempted to stretch his unbeaten record to three by making all the running over the straight six furlongs (1.2 kilometres).

Bahamian Bounty (11-2), who had looked a picture of health in the paddock, tracked the favourite in second with the front two dominating throughout.

Zamindar was never able to escape and when the

chips were down in the final furlong, it was obvious that he does not possess the lightning acceleration of his illustrious full brother Zafonic, who won the English Guineas in 1993.

Bahamian Bounty, ridden by the in-form Frankie Dettori, won by a short neck, with Pas De Repose a further three lengths away in third.

Rich Ground and Blue Ridge, the other two British contestants, filled the last two places in fourth and fifth.

Newmarket trainer, David Loder, celebrating his first Group 1 success in France, said: "We took a bit of gamble coming here with Bahamian Bounty, with the

colt having won (only) a small race at Yarmouth last time.

"Happily, it has paid off. He is a tremendously courageous horse. He will now be aimed at the Middle Park Stakes (at Newmarket) in October."

Loder, one of Britain's brightest talents among the younger training generation, had previously enjoyed Group 1 success in Britain with Blue Duster (Cheveley Park Stakes) and Italy thanks to Port Lucaya (Premio Vittorio Di Capua) and Bahamian Knight (Derby Italiano).

Grant Pritchard-Gordon, racing manager to Khalid Abdullah, the owner of Zamindar, said: "One can't

be too hard on a horse that loses by a short neck on only his third racecourse appearance. Perhaps he would have done better with a leader and a stiffer pace."

Zamindar had been as low as 6-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas but after Sunday's defeat he was pushed out to 8-1 with Bahamian Bounty at 16-1.

Dettori, who returned to action nine days after a nine-week absence through injury, has now won a Group 3, Group 2 and Group 1 race on consecutive days.

"You could say it's been a fantastic week for me," he said.



Ajax midfielder Arnold Scholten (top) fights for the ball with Belgian PSV Eindhoven striker Luc Nilis during their match for the Johan Cruyff Cup in Amsterdam Sunday. PSV won the Cup, a match between the Dutch Champion, Ajax, and the winner of the Dutch Cup, PSV, with a 3-0 score (Reuter photo)

PSV beats Ajax 3-0 for Dutch Super Cup title

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Belgian international forward Marc De Gryse scored two goals and led PSV Eindhoven to a 3-0 victory over Ajax Amsterdam Sunday, giving his new side the Dutch Super Cup title.

De Gryse, who played with Brugge and Anderlecht in the Belgian first division before transferring to Sheffield Wednesday last season, scored in the 60th and 78th minutes to help win the title, renamed this season to Johan Cruyff Cup.

Cruyff, a former Ajax star who now coaches FC Barcelona, presented the

trophy to PSV. Ajax had won the crown the last three seasons.

After a goalless first half, Rene Eijkelkamp gave PSV the lead by beating Ajax keeper Edwin Van Der Sar with a hit inside the left post in the 48th minute.

De Gryse scored his first by beating Van Der Sar from a tight angle and then added the insurance 18 minutes later.

Signaling a possible shift in the balance of power in Dutch soccer, PSV had looked the most likely to score before the break.

In the 15th minute, Dutch international Wim Jonk rattled the Ajax goal with a powerful long-range shot which beat Van Der Sar only to hit the left post.

With its most potent striker, Patrick Kluivert, on the bench, Ajax looked short of firepower up front.

Finnish international Jari Litmanen came the closest to breaking Ajax's goal drought when he curled a left-foot shot past PSV goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus only to see it hit off the inside of the post in the 31st minute.

Top colts clash at York Festival

LONDON (R) — Top colts Halling and First Island do battle in the Juddmonte International, the highlight of the opening day of the three-day York Festival Tuesday.

Halling, owned by Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation, is now 15-8 favourite with William Hill for his tilt at a second straight victory in the Group 1 contest.

First Island, who pleased trainer Geoff Wragg in his work this weekend, is down from 11-4 to 9-4 for the

valuable 10 furlong (2-kilometre) contest.

Halling won the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown last month for the second year in succession. First Island took the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.

Next in Tuesday's betting on 100-30 is Royal Ascot winner Bijou d'Inde whose trainer Mark Johnston is looking forward to the race.

"Everything has gone very smoothly...and he is in very good form," Johnston said.

"He has run in four Group

1 races this year and has never finished out of the first four."

Bijou d'Inde finished second in the Eclipse to Halling after attempting to make most of the running.

Earlier, the colt had been third in the 2,000 Guineas and is set to face a rematch with runner-up Even Top.

Even Top's trainer Mark Tompkins said: "He's taking on some top horses and we're just hoping for the best. We'll keep him at 10 furlongs and he'll probably go for the (Newmarket)

Champion Stakes."

Other top races during the three-day festival include the Yorkshire Oaks, the Ebor Handicap and the Gimcrack Stakes.

York's clerk of the course John Smith said Sunday: "The going is good and the course is in great shape. We watered for the first time last night just to maintain the going."

"Although the weather has been hot, the track has a good covering of grass so the sun hasn't got at it."

Gullit angry at Chelsea's poor start

LONDON (R) — International glamour was not enough to spur Ruud Gullit's Chelsea to a successful start in the English Premier League and the Dutchman was angry that his side were held to a goalless draw by Southampton.

"With the players I have I have the right to ask for more than we saw here and they know that a lot of them didn't perform as well as they can," said Gullit after the match Sunday.

"We were a bit sloppy at the vital moments and that's two points wasted," said Gullit, who has brought Italians Gianluca Vialli and Roberto di Matteo and French international defender Frank Leboeuf into the London side.

Gullit fielded a cosmopolitan line-up — midfielders Dennis Wise and Andy Myers were the only Englishmen. Vialli, who has been plagued by injuries, hit the post in the second half but admitted he had been below his best.

"At times I was not so sharp," said the former Juventus striker. "I must be patient because coming from such a troubled pre-season I really couldn't expect any better."

"Of course, I was dreaming I could show my best form on my debut but now I must look forward to getting rid of all my niggling problems. Then you will see me at my best."

Vialli's former Sampdoria teammate Graeme Souness, now manager of Southampton, predicts that Vialli will be every bit as formidable as Middlesbrough's Fabrizio Ravanelli, who scored a hat-trick against Liverpool Saturday.

"He's going to be an exceptional player here," Souness said of Vialli. "The longer the game went on you could see

him become more and more fox-like, he started looking for space and he will do well here."

Former champions Liverpool, who drew 3-3 at Middlesbrough, were back in action Monday evening, against managerless Arsenal at Anfield.

Czech Karel Poborsky is set to make his Premier League debut Wednesday when champions Manchester United host Everton.

Midfielder Roy Keane will be out of action for at least three weeks as he recovers from a knee operation so Poborsky will get his first taste of the Premier League against the side who beat second favourites Newcastle on the opening day.

Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat said Monday he hoped to complete the £750,000 (\$1.16 million) signing of Dutch international Orlando Trustfull from Feyenoord next week.

Trustful, an attacking midfielder, he will team up with his former Feyenoord teammate Regi Blinker, who joined Wednesday last season.

Injury-plagued England winger Jason Wilcox, who missed Blackburn's opening league match against Tottenham Saturday, has undergone another knee operation. Wilcox returned to action towards the end of last season after being out for nearly a year following surgery on a cruciate ligament injury.

"This latest operation was simply to remove a piece of gristle from his knee...He could be back playing in a couple of weeks," said manager Ray Harford.

Velez win Argentine soccer title

BUENOS AIRES, (R) — Goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert saved a penalty and nearly scored from a free kick as Velez Sarsfield drew 0-0 with Independiente Sunday to win the Argentine Clausura Championship.

The burly Paraguayan, who has scored twice from free kicks and twice from penalties during the tournament, pushed away a 65th minute penalty by former Argentine international Jorge Burruchaga.

He also came close to scoring from a first-half free kick but his shot was spectacularly saved by Colombian international Farid Mondragon in the independent goal.

The result was enough for Velez to take the title as second-placed Gimnasia La Plata, who began the day one point behind, were held to a 1-1 draw away to local rivals Estudiantes.

Two tournaments — the Apertura and Clausura — are played during the Argentine season and Velez, who won this season's Apertura, became the first club to win the double since the split was made in 1991.

Chilavert, who makes almost as many headlines for his outspoken comments as for his goalkeeping and goalkeeping, was undoubtedly the hero of Velez's triumphant campaign, his four goals making him the team's fifth top scorer.

Gimnasia, who lost the 1995 Clausura title on the last day of the season, saw their hopes take a severe blow when they fell to a Claudio Paris goal in the first half.

Roberto Sosa equalised in the 63rd minute but Gimnasia were unable to force the winner that would have brought them their first title since 1929.

New soccer season throws up early surprises in Germany and France

LONDON (R) — The new soccer season has thrown up early surprises and pushed unfancied clubs to the top of the German and French league tables but with only a handful of matches played, long-term prospects are hard to gauge.

In Germany, Borussia Dortmund lost their first match of the season 4-2 and VFB Stuttgart emerged as the early pace-setters but Dortmund's big rivals Bayern Munich remain wary of the defending champions.

"Borussia are known as slow starters," Bayern President Franz Beckenbauer wrote in his column for the Daily Bild newspaper. "They've got far too much potential to suffer a difficult season."

Without injured new signing Paulo Sousa, influential libero Mathias Sammer and midfielder Steffen Freund, Dortmund struggled against Bayer Leverkusen and they may have to rely on second-string players again Wednesday when they face Fortuna Duesseldorf.

In contrast, Bayern have few injury worries as they prepare to face Bochum in Midweek and could field the same side which beat St. Pauli 2-1 Friday.

Although he is not underestimating Dortmund, Beckenbauer is confident Bayern have the class to clinch their 14th Bundesliga title.

"The fact that the Bundesliga runners-up will also get a place in the Champions' League next season won't affect us — because we'll be champions anyway," he wrote.

But whoever wins the title, the former World Cup-winning coach and captain knows the current season marks a watershed. "The first day of the new season was also the start of a new era — soccer without frontiers as a result of the Bosman ruling," Beckenbauer said.

His words were underlined by a glance at the Bundesliga scorers at the weekend — 16 goals came from foreign players while only 12 came from Germans.

In France, Lens went top by beating newly-promoted Nancy 3-1 for their second win of the new season but, like Beckenbauer, the club's new trainer Slavo Muslin remains cautious.

"We're in the lead but we have only beaten two promoted sides (Caen and Nancy)," he said. "I do believe we can do well this season but we'll

have to wait until September to find out how strong we really are. We'll have two UEFA Cup matches that month and we'll also have to face Monaco and Paris in the league."

Lens signed Czech forward Vladimir Smicer following his Euro 96 performances but they remain a club with limited means.

"We've been working patiently for years to build a club capable of staying up there with the best permanently and to be in the lead is not a surprise for us," club President Germain Martel said.

Champions Auxerre, who beat Lille 2-0, and Paris St. Germain, who beat Caen by the same score, are also on maximum points but Lens have a better goal difference.

While the French are two games into their season, the Italians and Spaniards have yet to start.

Serie "A" kicks off on Sept. 8 with defending champions Milan at home to Verona and European champions Juventus away at Reggiana.

In Spain, last season's league and cup double winners Atletico Madrid begin the defence of their title with a home tie against Celta de Vigo on Sept. 1.

Rush's international career could be over

LONDON (R) — Ian Rush's international career could be over after Welsh manager Bobby Gould omitted him Monday from the squad for a World Cup qualifier against San Marino later this month.

The 34-year-old Rush, Wales' top international scorer with 28 goals from 73 appearances, asked not to be considered for the match in San Marino in June, which Wales won 5-0, while he sorted

out his club future after being granted a free transfer by Liverpool.

That opening Group 7 victory persuaded Gould to stick with the same side for the return match in Cardiff on Aug. 31 and when he contacted Rush, the new Leeds captain, said he was not interested in travelling as a reserve.

Gould said: "I spoke to Ian last week and invited him to join the squad,

having explained that there would be no place for him in the team. On that basis, he decided he did not want to be involved."

Rush made public his displeasure with the manager after being substituted during a 3-0 friendly defeat in Italy in January.

The only addition to the squad which went to San Marino is Everton midfielder Gary Speed, who was on honeymoon in June.

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Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd.

announces the invitation to Tender No.: 23 F/96

JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 23F/96, for the supply of:

- 1) Air compressor Qty (4)
 - 2) Air dryer Qty (2)
 - 3) Compressed air receiver Qty (2)
- to establish a compressed air station at Eshidya mines.

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Saturday, 7th September, 1996. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (30) for each set of tender documents. The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday, 17th September, 1996.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

PHILADELPHIA

Clueless

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Lalla Alawi & Singer Mohammad Fuad in
Traffic Lights
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Toy Story
5:00 p.m

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
MONKEY TROUBLE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"
HEAT
Show: 3:30, 8:30
ACE VENTURA 2
Shows: 6:30 ONLY

Immoun Theatre & Cinema

Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled

Five-Star Government
Starring comedians:
Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat
play starts 8:30 p.m

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

PRESENTS
THE SATIRICAL COMEDY
Arab Human Rights
At 8:30 p.m.
For reservation please call 625155-640155

O'Brien completes unlikely run with New Haven win

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — Alex O'Brien, a wild card entry ranked 169th, completed an incredible run at the Connecticut Tennis Centre by beating Jan Siemerink in the final of the \$1 million Pilot Pen International Sunday.

O'Brien, a 26-year-old Texan, finished off his dream week with a 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 victory over the 10th-seeded Dutchman to collect a prize of \$150,000.

"My plan all week was to take each match and do the best I could," said O'Brien, after winning his first title as a pro.

"Things just seemed to go my way and it's such a great feeling for me to start believing in myself. I've been feeling so confident and I'm seeing the ball so well."

O'Brien, who won the national collegiate title while at Stanford, had beaten top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarters and 14th-seeded Mark Philippoussis in the semis. He became the lowest-ranked player to win a title this year.

At 5-4, 30-30 in the final game, O'Brien closed it out with a stretch volley he angled for a winner, followed by a serve which forced Siemerink to return long.

In the previous game, O'Brien got the only service break of the set on a pair of passing shots that left the Dutchman looking at the net.

O'Brien lost his service only once in the title match and that was after he had broken Siemerink in the second game of the first set.

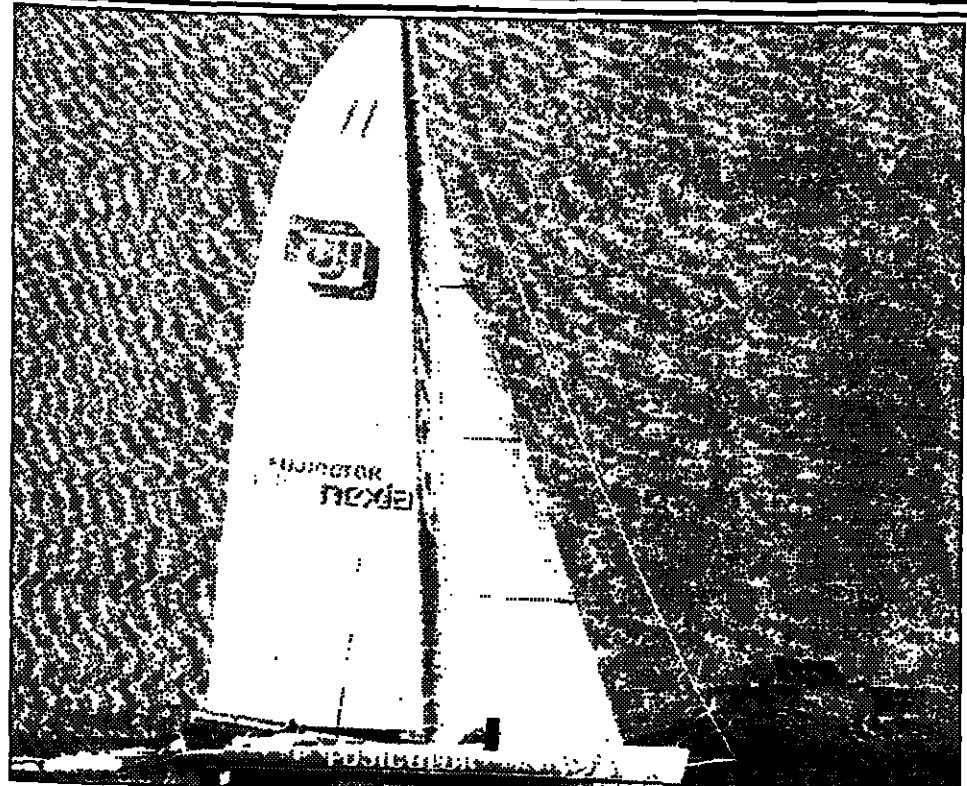
Siemerink, who had eliminated second-seeded Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, and fourth-seeded Wayne Ferreira on the way to the title round, took an early 3-0 lead in the first-set tiebreaker.

But O'Brien, steady with his serves and relentless with his passing shots, soon got even. Siemerink held one set point at 6-5 before O'Brien served back to his own set point at 7-6. Siemerink then rushed in behind his first serve and volleyed long to end the breaker.

"I just couldn't get the steps I needed to play my aggressive game," said Siemerink. "My legs didn't have it. I was a little slow and he gave me no chance to recover. I chose to come here and play singles and doubles, so I have no excuses."

In their only previous meeting, Siemerink won in straight sets a year ago in New Zealand.

"I asked for a wild card here and I'm really, really happy they gave it to me," said O'Brien with a wide grin. "I'm also hoping to get one at the U.S. Open. If not, I'll just be playing doubles there."



SAILING RECORD: French Skipper Loick Peyron crosses the finish line to win the sailing race between Quebec and Saint-Malo Monday. Peyron broke the record by winning in 7 days 20 hours 24 minutes and 43 seconds (Reuter photo)

Andretti wins Indycar Race

ELKHART LAKE, Wisconsin (R) — Michael Andretti rode past Al Unser Jr.'s disabled racer on the final lap Sunday to win the Indycar Texaco/Havoline 200 at Road America.

In an event filled with caution periods, the Mercedes engine on Unser's Penske race car blew while he was in the final turn.

Bobby Rahal came home second followed by rookie Alex Zanardi of Italy. Stefan Johansson of Sweden, Bryan Herta and points leader Jimmy Vasser.

"I couldn't believe it," said Andretti of Unser's engine failure. "I felt bad for Al because he's done a great job. But there are times when it went the other way, so I'll take it."

Andretti earned his fourth victory of the season and 34th of his career — one behind Bobby Unser for fourth place on the all-time list.

Unser had an opportunity to close the series points gap on Vasser but instead lost considerable ground. Vasser gained four points on Unser, increasing his margin to 21 points in pursuit of his first Indycar crown.

The tenor of the race was set on the opening lap when Zanardi and Gil De Ferran tapped, sending De Ferran into a gravel trap and Danish rookie Jan Magnussen off the course. It was the end of the day for both drivers and the fourth straight race in which De Ferran has failed to earn points.

"He just decided to put me off the road during braking," said De Ferran, rumoured along with Magnussen as the drivers most sought by Jackie Stewart for his new Formula One team.

"He should be disqualified for his sportsmanship." Accidents and frustration were common all day as Davy Jones, Greg Moore of Canada, Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin, Mark Blundell of Britain, Mexico's Adrian Fernandez and Parker Johnstone were among the drivers making early exits.

Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi vented his frustration when his racer failed by jumping out of the car and walking along the side of the track and at one point running across the active raceway.

Sampras gets boost by taking Indianapolis title

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — World number one Pete Sampras found the confidence-building victory he sought before the U.S. Open, beating Goran Ivanisevic 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, to win the ATP U.S. hardcourts here Sunday.

Winning the \$1.04 million event gave Sampras his first title in four months and \$150,000 as well as a lift before the year's final Grand Slam event. The U.S. Open begins on Aug. 26 in New York.

"This wins helps me. I was looking for that here," Sampras said. "I don't guarantee a (U.S. Open) win, but this is a good start. I felt I played pretty well this week. I was reasonably sharp today."

Sampras, who improved his career record against the second seeded Croatian to 8-6, came through with a break in the seventh game of the second set when Ivanisevic held a 40-0 lead.

Ivanisevic let the pivotal game slip with a double fault and a short drop shot. Sampras held on and took a 4-3 lead from an Ivanisevic return long over the baseline. But that break hardly settled the contest.

Ivanisevic stayed alive as he broke back to 5-5 when Sampras stretched log for a forehand which hit the net.

The drama continued when Ivanisevic double-faulted for two break points in the next game and lost his serve again with his fifth double fault.

"I lost my concentration after 3-0 in the second set when I was up 40-0," Ivanisevic said. "I lost my rhythm on serve and he broke me. From then on I couldn't serve well, even if I broke back."

Sampras seized his second opportunity and didn't let go. The American got to three match points in the next game, double faulted on his first, and put over a shoelace return which Ivanisevic could not reach to win.

"There were so many ups and downs," Sampras said. "At 5-0 in the second I put a few good groundstrokes together and he double faulted to give me the 6-5 lead. That was it."

It was the fifth title of the year for Sampras and the eighth final for Ivanisevic, who has still not won a title on U.S. soil.

"Overall, I'm very satisfied with this week," Ivanisevic said. "Even if I'm not on my top form, I'm playing well. My goal is to get through the first week of the U.S. Open."

"I want to be there on the Monday of the second week not as a tourist, but as a tennis player who is still in the tournament."

After the match started two hours late due to rain, Sampras got the early edge, breaking in the second game. Sampras stretched his lead to 3-0 with a love game that ended with an ace.

Ivanisevic replied with a love game, which he won with his 1,000th ace of the year. The Croatian, who has played and lost two U.S. finals, broke back in the seventh game for 3-4 and held to level at 4-4.

The hard-serving pair exchanged love games to get to 6-5 Sampras before Ivanisevic equalised to force the tiebreaker.

Sampras clinched the opening set in 38 minutes from a 5-1 lead. Ivanisevic missed a between-the-legs retrieval as he chased a Sampras lob to end the set.

Davenport continues roll by beating Huber in final

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (R) — Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport's excellent summer got even better Sunday as she won the \$450,000 Acura Classic in straight sets over second seed Anke Huber of Germany.

Davenport, who notched a milestone, first career victory over Steffi Graf in the semifinals Saturday, collected an \$80,000 check after beating Huber 6-2 6-3.

"This is the best summer of my life in terms of tennis," said fourth seed Davenport following her sixth career title.

"Coming off the Olympics, I knew I had a lot of confidence, but I never honestly thought I'd win here, especially with the draw and the other players. So, I'm very shocked."

Davenport hopes the two big titles will help set her up for the U.S. Open fortnight at Flushing Meadows from Aug. 26.

"Going into the U.S. Open I'm expecting a little more of myself. I know I'm capable of doing extremely well there. I'm just going to have to stay extremely focused those two weeks."

Davenport, 20, displayed a lethal ground attack to improve her head-to-head mark to 6-1 over Huber, the world's fifth ranked player. She dictated the pace throughout, pulling Huber out of position and forcing the 22-year-old into mistakes.

Davenport was broken just once, while breaking the poor-serving Huber four times.

"My own serve was pretty bad today," said Huber. "Her return is one of the best parts of her game. I think I tried to do too much, especially with my second serve. When she gets it back, you can look in back of you because its quite tough."

The 6-foot-2, (188 lb) American, raced to a 4-1 lead when Huber committed double-faults at break points in games two and four. At 5-2, Davenport broke again at love to win the set.

Davenport again took a 4-1 lead in the second set as Huber again double-faulted on game point. Huber, who had seven double faults, had a chance to close to 4-3 but let two break points slip away and Davenport won the game with an ace.

Davenport ended the match with her fourth ace.

Huber, who won her first meeting with Davenport in 1991 before losing their next six encounters, said Davenport has come a long way the past two years.

"She has the possibilities to become number one," said Huber. "I think she raised her game, her movement has gotten better, she's become more consistent. She really knows what she's doing compared to two years ago."

Two sent off as 'peace' match turns nasty in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Two players were sent off for fighting while the referee was given a police escort Sunday in a Brazilian championship match which had begun with players offering their support to a peace campaign.

The Sao Paulo team brought a white flag onto the field for their home match with Bahia to show solidarity for a public campaign against violence in Sao Paulo, which has seen several people murdered during armed robberies this month.

But as 88th of the game began, the players set about kicking each other as a series of wild tackles flew in with Bahia the main culprits.

Sao Paulo midfielder Edmilson was the victim of a vicious tackle from behind just before halftime in an incident which resulted in players squaring up to each other.

Six minutes into the second half, Edmilson and Bahia midfielder Derci were shown the red card for fighting.

The referee had been given a police escort as he left the field at halftime, apparently to protect him against Bahia players who were livid about a goal which gave Sao Paulo a 2-1 lead just before the interval.

Bahia players claimed former Brazil international Muller had scored from an offside position and surrounded the match official to protest when he gave the goal.

Two late goals from Colombian international Victor Hugo Aristizabal gave Bahia a 5-2 win and their second straight victory under Carlos Alberto Pereira, Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning coach.

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